



BOWERS AND MERENA AUCTIONS

Jim Gray's North Carolina Collection



July 8 & 9, 2004

Baltimore Convention Center • Baltimore, MD



Consign to Our Next Auction . . .

BOWERS AND MERENA – Pittsburgh 2004 –

BOWERS AND MERENA will be conducting a Rarities Sale on August 14, 2004 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, the site of the 2004 ANA World's Fair of Money Convention

Million dollar PCGS Registry set already consigned...

This special auction is limited to just 1200 lots and we already have Carl Womack's million dollar #1 all time finest PCGS Registry set of Buffalo Nickels. This famed collection includes a 1916 Double Die Obverse PCGS MS64, a 1918/17-D PCGS MS65 and the 1926-S PCGS MS65.

We are also proud to offer the Tom Klingensmith collection of all red Lincoln cents currently the 5th finest PCGS Registry set, and the Bismarck complete type collection of gold. Bismarck 1879 Stella is graded by NGC as PR64CAM, and the collection also includes a 1796 \$2.5 PCGS AU58, an 1808 \$2.5 PCGS MS62 and an 1830 \$5 graded by PCGS as MS64.

Be part of the action... consign today!

Consider selling your collection in this Rarities Auction to be held by Bowers and Merena. Call Steve Deeds or Reid Wolf today at 800.458.4646. The consignment deadline is July 2, 2004.

When it's time to sell, let our success be your success!

Remember, four of the five most valuable United States coin collections were sold by Bowers and Merena. The Eliasberg Collection sold for \$45,000,000, The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection for \$35,000,000, The Garrett Collection for \$25,000,000, and the Norweb Collection for \$20,000,000.



Steve Deeds

THE TIME IS RIGHT! CONSIGN NOW!

CONSIGNMENT DEADLINE: JULY 2, 2004
AUCTION DATE: AUGUST 14, 2004

Call Steve Deeds or Reid Wolf Today at

800-458-4646



Reid Wolf

BOWERS AND MERENA PRESENTS

JIM GRAY'S NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION

AUCTION



July 8-9, 2004
Baltimore Convention Center
One West Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Tel: 410.649.7000

BOWERS AND MERENA AUCTIONS

A GMAI Company
When Great Collections Are Sold, Bowers and Merena Sells Them

18022 Cowan Suite 200D • Irvine, CA 92614 • 800.458.4646 • 949.253.0916 • FAX: 949.253.4091
www.bowersandmerena.com • e-mail: auction@bowersandmerena.com • NASDAQ: GMAI
This sale is held in association with Jay Edwards & Assoc. LLC

AUCTION LOCATION

Baltimore Convention Center

Halls A & B, Room 314 (Charles & Pratt Street Entrance)
One West Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Tel: 410-649-7000

AUCTION

The Auction Sessions will be held in Room 314

SESSION ONE

THURSDAY, JULY 8
Lots 1-824
6 pm Start

5:30 pm Complimentary Buffet
Dinner for Registered Bidders

SESSION TWO

FRIDAY, JULY 9
Lots 1001-1709
3 pm Start

6:30 pm Complimentary Buffet
Dinner for Registered Bidders

SESSION THREE

FRIDAY, JULY 9
Lots 2001-2465, 3001-3278
7 pm Start

LOT VIEWING

Lot Viewing at our offices in Irvine, CA - June 21 - 30 (By Appointment Only)

Lot Viewing at the convention will be conducted as follows:

TUESDAY, JULY 6

9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Baltimore Convention Center - Room 314

THURSDAY, JULY 8

9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Baltimore Convention Center -- Bourse Floor
Tables 001 - 009

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Baltimore Convention Center -- Room 314

FRIDAY, JULY 9

9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Baltimore Convention Center -- Bourse Floor
Tables 001 - 009

LOT PICKUP

Lot Pick Up will be conducted on the Bourse Floor, Tables 001 - 009

FRIDAY, JULY 9

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 10

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

All times listed are in Eastern Daylight Time

BOWERS AND MERENA
ORDER OF SALE
SESSION THREE

FRIDAY, JULY 9, 2004, 7:00 PM START
JIM GRAY'S NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION
LOTS 2001 – 2465

Liberty Seated Half Dimes.....	Lots 2001 – 2072
Liberty Seated Dimes.....	Lots 2073 – 2190
Liberty Seated Quarter Dollars.....	Lots 2191 – 2300
Liberty Seated Half Dollars	Lots 2301 – 2416
Gobrecht Dollars.....	Lots 2417 – 2421
Liberty Seated Dollars.....	Lots 2422 – 2465

*Lots 3001 – 3278 will follow immediately upon the conclusion of this section.
(Please refer to the July 2004 Baltimore Auction catalog
for a complete listing of lots.)*

TERMS OF SALE

1. Auction Basics. This is a public auction sale ("Auction Sale") conducted by licensed and

2. Descriptions and Grading. Grade a breakdown that all grading of care in the

3. The Bidding Process. Our auctioneer has agreed to accept the highest bid for each lot by

Power of attorney (see [Delegation of authority](#)) is a power given by one person to another to act on their behalf. It can be general or specific, and can be written or verbal. A power of attorney can be used to give someone authority to act on your behalf in relation to a particular transaction or a range of transactions. Powers of attorney can also be used to give someone authority to act on your behalf in relation to a particular transaction or a range of transactions.

the lot. No Buyer shall have a right to claim any consequential damage if and/or to withdraw from the Auction Sale.

4. Bidder Registration Required. All persons wishing to bid on any lots must register to bid at the auction by completing a registration card or bid sheet. By submitting bid, the Bidder acknowledges that Bidder has read the terms and Conditions of Auction and the descriptions for the lots/bid items they have bid, and that they agree to adhere to these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sole. This agreement shall be deemed to have been made in California. The bidder acknowledges that the notice describing a bid is deemed to incorporate the language and terms and conditions of auction sole.

5. Prices, Payment and Delivery. A buyer's Commission of three (3%) will be charged.

material or will be added to all purchases made by *Bidders*, except for participants in consignees, regardless of affiliation with any group or organization, and will be based upon the total amount of the final bid. An insurance charge may apply to Consignors' purchases of a consignment agreement, which may be higher than the "Basic Commission Agreement" if the goods are insured under a policy of insurance. Payment is delinquent and in arrears if not made in grossly funds within ten business (10) days of the American sale, unless otherwise agreed. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, payment shall be made in U.S. funds payable through a bank in the United States. Any late fees and immaterial costs or expenses resulting from late payment shall be paid by the Consignor. Consignee's expenses resulting from late payment shall be paid by the Consignor. Consignee's expenses resulting from late payment shall be paid by the Consignor as agreed by *Bidders*. Consignee's expenses resulting from late payment shall be paid by the Consignor, for which such final, largest and most recent payment was received by *Bidders* after the time agreed by *Bidders* for the next scheduled delivery and previous payments.

f. Financial Responsibility. In the event a successful Bidder fails to make payment when due, Bowers reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to rescind the sale or to resell the lots in a commercially reasonable manner, which may include a public or private auction. Bidder agrees to pay for the reasonable cost of such a sale, together with any reasonable costs of sale including reasonable attorney's fees and costs, catalogue and advertising costs, and other reasonable charges. Bidder grants to Bowers all the rights to offset any amounts due or found due to Powers, and to make such offset from my past, current, or future co-payment, or purchases that are in the possession or control of Bowers, to the amount due to Bidder by Bowes. Bidder further grants Bowers a purchase money security interest in such items or sums and their proceeds to the extent applicable, to secure all indebtedness due to Bowers, plus all accrued expenses, attorney fees and costs until the indebtedness is paid in full. Bidder grants Bowers the right to file a UCC financing statement for such items, to sign the statement as Bidder's attorney-in-fact, and to assign such interest to any affiliated or related company or any third party deemed appropriate by Bowers. If the auction invoice is not paid for in full within one year after the unpaid balance will earn interest at the rate of one-and-one-half percent (1 1/2%) per month until it is paid in full. In the event this interest rate exceeds the interest rate permitted by law, the same shall be adjusted to the maximum rate permitted by law, and any amount paid in excess thereof shall be allocated to principal. Bidder agrees to pay all reasonable attorney's fees, court costs and other collection costs incurred by Bowers or any affiliated or related company to collect past due invoices or to interpret or enforce the terms hereof or in any action or proceeding arising out of or related to the

Auction Sale. Bowers reserves the right to assign its interest to any third party. To the extent that the winning Bidder for any lot consists of more than one person or entity, each such person or entity is jointly and severally liable for all obligations of the Bidder, regardless of the title or capacity of such person or entity.

7. DISCLAIMER AND WARRANTIES. NO WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE IS MADE OR IMPLIED ON ANY LOT. NO WARRANTY, WHETHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, IS MADE WITH RESPECT TO ANY LOT EXCEPT FOR WARRANTY OF TITLE, AND IN THE CASE OF TITLE, AUCTIONEER IS SELLING ONLY THAT RIGHT OR TITLE TO THE LOT THAT THE CONSIGNOR MAY HAVE AS OF THE AUCTION SALE DATE. ALL LOTS ARE SOLD "AS IS" AND WITH ALL FAULTS. PURCHASER HEREBY ASSUMES ALL RISKS CONCERNING AND RELATED TO THE GRADING, QUALITY, DESCRIPTION, CONDITION, AUTHENTICITY, AND PROVENANCE OF A LOT.

a) All sales of items (1) viewed by Bidders in advance of a sale, even if the sale is by mail, telefax or internet, or (2) bid upon by Floor Bidders, Telephone Bidders and Bidders who present Bowers with a resale certificate, out of state resale certificate, or similar evidence in acting as a dealer; ARE FINAL AND MAY NOT BE RETURNED.

b) Any and all claims that an item is not authentic, must be made in writing to Bowers within seventy-two (72) hours days after receipt of the item.

c) If an item or items are returned pursuant to the terms herein, they must be housed in their original, sealed and unopened container.

d) Late remittance or removal of any item from its original container constitutes just cause for revocation of all return privileges.

e) Grading or condition of rare coins may have a material effect on the value of the items purchased, and the opinion of others (including independent grading services) may differ with the independent grading services opinion or interpretation of Bowers. Bowers shall not be bound by any prior, or subsequent opinion, determination or certification by any independent grading service.

f) Questions regarding the minting of a coin as a "proof" or as a "business strike" relate to the method of manufacture and not to authenticity.

g) All oral and written statements made by Bowers and its employees (including affiliated and related companies) are statements of opinion only, and are not warranties or representations of any kind, unless stated as a specific written warranty, and no employee or agent of Bowers has authority to vary or alter these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale. Any alteration shall be effective only if in writing and signed by an officer of Bowers authorized to do so.

h) Bidders shall have no recourse against the Consignor for any reason whatsoever.

i) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale, COINS LISTED IN THIS CATALOGUE GRADED BY PCGS, NGC, OR ANACS CACHET, OR ANY OTHER THIRD PARTY GRADING SERVICE MAY NOT BE RETURNED FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER.

j) Bidder acknowledges that the rare coin market is speculative, unregulated and volatile, and that coin prices may rise or fall over time. Bowers does not guarantee that any customer buying for investment purpose will be able to sell for a profit in the future.

k) Bidder acknowledges and agrees that neither Bowers, nor its employees, affiliates, agents, third-party providers or consignors warrant that auctions will be unimpeded, uninterrupted or error free and accordingly shall not be liable for such events.

8. Waiver and Release. Bidder, for himself, his heirs, agents, successors and assigns, generally and specifically waives and releases, and forever discharges Bowers, and its respective affiliates, parents, shareholders, agents, subsidiaries, employees, members of their respective boards of directors, and each of them, and their respective successors and assigns from any and all claims, rights, demands and causes of actions and suits, of whatever kind or nature, including but not limited to claims based upon Auctioneer's negligence, whether in law or equity, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, which Bidder may claim to have with respect to and/or arising out of, or in connection with any challenge to the title to any goods purchased, the sale itself, any bid upon or consigned, and/or the auction, except where such reimbursement is otherwise authorized in these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale. It is the intention of Bidder that this waiver and release shall be effective as a bar to each and every claim, demand, cause of action and suit that may arise hereunder or be related to the Auction Sale, and Purchaser hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives any and all rights and benefits otherwise conferred upon him by the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads in full as follows:

"A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR."

9. Disputes. If a dispute arises concerning ownership of a lot that has been bid upon or concerning proceeds of any sale, Bowers reserves the right to commence a statutory interpleader proceeding at the expense of the Consignor and successful Bidder and any other applicable party, and in such event shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. Bowers reserves the right to cancel or postpone the Auction Sale or any session thereof for a reasonable period of time for any reason whatsoever. No Bidder shall have any

claim as a result thereof, including for incidental or consequential damages. Neither Bowers nor any affiliated or related company shall be responsible for incidental or consequential damages arising out of any failure of the Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale, the auction or the conduct thereof and in no event shall such liability exceed the purchase price, premium, or fees paid. If the Bidder fails to comply with one or more of these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale, then, in addition to any other remedies which may be available to Bowers, Bowers may at its sole option either (a) cancel the sale, retaining all payments made by Bidder as liquidated damages, it being recognized that actual damages may be speculative or difficult to compute, or (b) sell a portion or all of the lot(s) held by Bowers, in a quantity sufficient in the opinion of Bowers to satisfy the indebtedness, plus all accrued charges, and Bowers may sell such portion at an auction sale or private sale conducted by Bowers and charge a seller's commission that is commercially reasonable. More than one such sale may take place at the option of Bowers. Notice of the sale shall be by U.S.P.S. Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to the address indicated on the Bid Sheet, Auction Consignment and Security Agreement or other last known address by Bowers. The proceeds shall be applied first to the satisfaction of any damages occasioned by Bidder's breach, then to any other indebtedness owed to Bowers, including without limitation, commissions, handling charges, the expenses of both sales, reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, collection agency fees and costs and any other costs or expenses incurred. Bidder shall also be liable to Bowers if the proceeds of such sale or sales are insufficient to cover the indebtedness. Rights granted to Bidders under the within Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale are personal and apply only to the Bidder who initially purchases the lot(s) from Bowers. The rights may not be assigned or transferred to any other person or entity, whether by sale of the lot(s), operation of law or otherwise. Any attempt to assign or transfer any such rights shall be absolutely void and unenforceable. No third party may rely on any benefit or right conferred by these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale.

10. General Terms. These Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale and the auction shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of California, regardless of the location of the Auction Sale. Any dispute arising out of or related to these Terms and Conditions of Sale, the Auction Sale or any lot, with the sole exception of actions by Bowers to collect the purchase price and other damages, shall be submitted to binding arbitration pursuant to the rules of the Professional Numismatics Guild ("PNG"). Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the competent courts of the State of California shall have exclusive jurisdiction subject to the requirement to arbitrate, over any dispute(s) arising hereunder, regardless of any party's current or future residence or domicile. Bidder further agrees that any claim in arbitration before the Superior Court in Orange County or in the state of California, Bidder agrees that any arbitration or legal action with respect to this Auction Sale is barred unless commenced within one (1) year of the date of this Auction Sale. These Terms and Conditions of Sale and the information on the Bowers' website constitute the entire agreement between the parties hereto on the subject matter hereof and supersede all other agreements, understandings, warranties and representations concerning the subject matter hereof. If any section of these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale or any term or provision of any section is held to be invalid, void, or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections or terms and provisions of a section shall continue in full force and effect with or without impaired or invalidated in any way. Bowers may at its sole and absolute discretion, make loans or advances to Consignors and/or Bidders.

11. Special Services. If you wish to limit your total expenditures, please fill in the maximum amount you wish to spend on the MAXIMUM EXPENDITURE line at the upper portion of your bid sheet. You can then submit bids for amounts up to eight times the amount of the maximum expenditure. This is a personal service and a Bowers and Merena customer representative will personally attend to your bid sheet by bidding from the auction floor, buying lots for your account until your authorized expenditure is reached. While we will do our best in your behalf, due to the speed of the auction sale and the sometimes crowded conditions, we cannot be responsible for failure to execute such a bid properly. Due to the bookkeeping involved, this service is offered only to bidders with maximum expenditures of \$1,000 or more. MAXIMUM EXPENDITURE UNDERTAKEN ON ONE LOT ONLY bidding can be combined.

12. Up to five lots may be grouped with brackets for a ONE LOT ONLY purchase if you wish to purchase only one example of a coin of which several examples appear in the sale. Such lots should be bracketed on your bid sheet. While we do our best on your behalf, due to the speed of the auction sale and the sometimes crowded conditions, we cannot be responsible for failure to execute such a bid properly.

13. We invite you to take advantage of the optional 10% to 30% increase to help your chance of being a successful bidder. Check the appropriate place on your bid sheet.

14. Bidding in this auction sale constitutes acceptance by the bidder of the foregoing terms of sale.

Please note: Transparent holders in which the auction lots are stored are to facilitate viewing and inspection of the lots and ARL NOT for long-term storage.

FOR BEST ATTENTION:

Pre-sale bidding online at www.bowersandmerena.com until:

Session One

Thursday, July 8

12 noon Pacific Time

Session Two

Friday, July 9

9:00 AM Pacific Time

Session Three

Friday, July 9

9:00 am Pacific Time



Stephen Deeds
President

BOWERS AND MERENA

ORGANIZATION



Reid Wolf
Consignor Services



Jeff Ambro
Cataloging



Diane Gamm
Auction Services



Leslie Mullin
Photography/Auction Services



Ian Russell
Operations and Marketing



Amy Tamm
Auction Services



Radica Endo
Auction Services



Elaine Noriega
Auction Services



Bryan Stoughton
Graphic Design



Karla Bridge
Photography



Kristine Gallant
Auction Services



Dennis Nowicki
Cataloging



Gar Travis
Cataloging



Ron Castro
Photography/Auction Services



Michael Loettler
Information Technology



Mike Provencio
Information Technology



Nick Furturro
Graphic Design



Debbie McDonald
Auction Services



Bob Rubel
Cataloging

BOWERS AND MERENA

AUCTION SCHEDULE

August 13 – 14, 2004

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Rarities Sale

Consignment Deadline: June 24, 2004

October 28 – 29, 2004

◆ *Official Auctioneer* ◆
Las Vegas, Nevada
Las Vegas Invitational Coin Show
Mandalay Bay
Rarities Sale

Consignment Deadline: September 9, 2004

December 1 – 4, 2004

◆ *Official Auctioneer* ◆
Baltimore, Maryland
Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention
Consignment Deadline: October 11, 2004

BOWERS AND MERENA AUCTIONS

18022 Cowan Suite 200D • Irvine, CA 92614

Toll-free: 800-458-4646 • 949-253-0916 • Fax: 949-253-4091
www.bowersandmerena.com • email: auction@bowersandmerena.com

January 9, 2005

Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Consignment Deadline: November 26, 2004

March 9 – 11, 2005

◆ *Official Auctioneer* ◆
Baltimore, Maryland
Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention
Consignment Deadline: January 24, 2005

April 7 – 9, 2005

◆ *Official Auctioneer* ◆
Kansas City, Missouri
ANA Money Show
Consignment Deadline: February 21, 2005

July 6 – 8, 2005

◆ *Official Auctioneer* ◆
Baltimore, Maryland
Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention
Consignment Deadline: May 27, 2005

EXPANDED PERSONAL SERVICE FOR OUR MAIL BIDDERS

You can improve your chances of being a winning bidder in this auction sale! Take advantage of our Maximum Expenditure service—bid on lots totaling up to eight times the amount you wish to spend (\$1,000 minimum),

or use our One Lot Only service and bid on up to five lots and be assured of getting no more than one—or use both features together. Please see points 11 and 12 in the Terms of Sale.

Fax your bid
sheet (any time,
24 hours a day).

Our direct fax
number is
949-253-4091.



Bid Sheet

BOWERS AND MERENA AUCTIONS

18022 Cowan, Suite 200 D, Irvine, CA 92614

Toll Free 800-458-4646

Fax your bids 24 hours a day! Our fax number is 714/253-4091. Be sure to follow up with a telephone call with written confirmation.

OFFICE USE ONLY
Name _____
Date _____
Day _____
Month _____
Year _____

IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ TERMS OF SALE BEFORE BIDDING.

Our auction is a public auction. All bids are final. No returns or refunds will be made. All sales are final. All bids are subject to the discretion of the auctioneer, including postage and insurance costs.

OUR FAX NUMBER IS 714/253-4091.

Deposit on Sale
\$ 2,000

SPECIAL SERVICES

Maximum Expenditure

\$ 8,000

Please increase my bids
10% 20% 30%
if necessary to obtain lots.

LOT	BID
101	900
72	900
74	1,100
78	1,275
439	1,550
443	1,350
450	2,500
1127	275
1219	850

NAME **John Dow**
STREET/ROUTE **123 Pleasant St**

CITY **Anytown**

STATE/ZIP **CA 92345**

PHONE/ELECTRONIC **(123) 555-1111**

JOHN DOW

FAX **(123) 555-1234**

DATE **5/20/04**

SIGNATURE/Bid sheet MUST be signed.

PLEASE CHECK IF THIS IS A CONFIRMATION OF BIDS SUBMITTED BY PHONE OR FAX

A 15% buyer's premium will be added to all successful bids.

If you are using the One Lot Only option (up to 5 lots per group), please use the narrow columns to group the lots with a bracket:

LOT	BID
1589	1,800
1592	2,000
1600	1,300
2165	395
2175	700
2180	150
2304	1,400
2572	800

LOT	BID
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LOT	BID
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NEW BIDDERS

The following information must be supplied to us before your bids can be executed. Bidders who are not known to us must send a deposit of 25% of their bids. The deposit will be credited toward lots purchased and any balance will be refunded within 10 working days after the sale.

Check if you are a new bidder with Bowers and Merena

Yes No

Enter a deposit amount if you are a new bidder with Bowers and Merena

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JIM GRAY'S NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION

JULY 9, 2004
7:00 PM, EASTERN TIME

SEATED HALF DIMES

2001 1837 Breen-3008. No Stars, Small Date. MS-62 (PCGS). Intermingled heather and vivid blue toning provides excellent aesthetic appeal. The toning subdues satiny luster with hints of mirrored fields on both sides. A few faint hairlines and other minor imperfections keep this coin from the Choice category.

Among Half Dimes and Dimes, 1837 represents a transitional year. Both denominations had coinage of the older Capped Bust design as well as the new Liberty Seated motif. The transition for Quarters took place in 1838 and for Half Dollars in 1839.

PCGS has certified only 35 Small Date examples of this issue in all grades, and Breen (1988) states that it is much more difficult to locate in the finer Mint State grades than its similarly dated Large Date counterpart.

PCGS# 4312.

Purchased from Beckert & Kuchnert on October 25, 1994



2002 1838-O Breen-3009. V-2, No Stars, AU-58 (NGC). A pleasing example with intermingled gold, blue, and iridescent toning. This is the scarcer Valentine-2 variety with the date "running uphill" from left to right. This is a later strike from these dies as discussed by Walter Breen with considerable distortion due to die wear.

The New Orleans Mint was placed in operation in 1838 with coinage limited to Half Dimes, Dimes, and Half Dollars. Other denominations were included the following year as production approached full scale. The New Orleans Mint Half Dimes and Dimes of 1838 are scarce while Half Dollars of this year are extremely rare.

NGC Census 2; 11 fine.

PCGS# 4314.

Ex: Buddy Ebsen Collection (Superior Galleries, May 31 - June 2, 1987)
Lot 518

2003 1838 Breen-3010. No Drapery, Large Stars. MS-62 (PCGS). Soft, frosty luster with deep heather, blue, and iridescent toning. Very sharply struck and extremely attractive for the grade. Two major varieties for the year have either large or small stars on the obverse. These are listed in the Guide Book, Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia, and other references.

The Small Stars varieties are actually mere die states of the Large Stars coinage. The dies became damaged and were extensively polished, resulting in weakened details that created the appearance of smaller obverse stars.

PCGS# 4317.

Purchased from Liberty Coin on October 8, 1998

2004 1839 Breen-3012. MS-62 (PCGS). A lovely example with vivid rainbow iridescence on both obverse and reverse. Normal dies without any evidence of date recutting or other abnormalities. The mintage of Half Dimes this year was just over 1 million coins, however, it is likely that many of these were from dies bearing the 1838 date.

PCGS# 4319



2005 1839-O Breen-3016. Repunched Date. Small O. MS-62 (NGC). This is an attractive example with deep heather and blue toning over frosty luster. The digits 1 and 9 in the date are sharply doubled below, very close to the border.

This is an important opportunity for the specialist. In his reference on the series, author Al Blithe notes: 'Although the population of certified coins for this date is surprisingly low, a review of LSCC survey data confirms this as a common date type coin.' Our experience, however, is more in line with the population data and suggests that this is a very scarce date and one that is seldom encountered in Mint State.

The abbreviation LSCC stands for Liberty Seated Collection Club, an organization of collectors who specialize in these Chapman Cobright designed coins.

PCGS# 4320

Ex: Stack's April 29-30, 1987, Lot 239

2006 1840 Breen-3017. No Drapery. MS-62 (NGC). Lovely silver surfaces with amber and sea-green toning over frosty luster. The date is high in the field and slants down to the right, with top of the 1 very close to the rock and the top of 0 more distant. Slightly scarcer as a date. Among the No Drapery Half Dimes, 1838 is the only common date, with the 1839 and 1840 issues having much lower certified populations.

PCGS# 4321

2007 1840-O Breen-3020. No Drapery. Small O. AU-50. Pale gray surfaces with traces of satiny luster and excellent eye appeal. The reverse has numerous die cracks, especially prominent through C of AMERICA and from the border to the right ribbon. This date is quite scarce and is the most elusive of all No Drapery Half Dimes. The original mintage is just 695,000 coins. Among these, there are three basic mintmark sizes, known simply as Small O, Medium O, and Large O.

PCGS# 4322



2008 1840 Breen-3022. With Drapery, MS-62 (NGC). An outstanding example with deep golden toning along the borders, lighter at the centers. Wisps of blue and iridescent colors add to the overall eye appeal of this example. Very few With Drapery Half Dimes were coined in 1840, the added design feature being included only on dies produced very late in the year. It is believed that these coins were produced during December 1840. Examples are usually available with moderate scratching, but they are seldom found in Mint State.

PCGS #380



2009 1840-O Breen-3023. With Drapery, AU-58 (NGC). A lovely example of this scarce issue with gold borders and pale blue toning at both the centers and reverse. The reverse of the 1840-O With Drapery Half Dime is considered to have soldages at 200,000 coins. No full Mint State examples are known to us. The current appearance represents the earliest extant pieces we could find. Should not be taken lightly. In fact, our population data from PCGS and NGC shows that only 100+ AU-58 examples are known.

PCGS #381

From the Estate of James W. Gray

Ex. James W. Gray

2010 1841 Breen-3034. AU-58 (NGC). Faint gold with splashes of blue and minor toning, with a pleasing reverse. About evenly spaced hairlines in greenish tan top of obverse. This is a plentiful date in all grades, but no clear representative issue for the design type.

PCGS #382

Published from Early Editions



2011 1841-O Breen-3026. Medium O, MS-61 (NGC). 5% from 5160 total struck with silver tones, benzoid gold, and pale blue toning. Fine strike with excellent flow lines and several light cracks (as produced) on the reverse. The New Orleans Mint produced 305,000 Half Dimes in 1841 among the higher production of all the denominations from this facility. The mintage figure does not follow price curves with current population data, the large O with drapery die date being always especially in Mint State preservation. The date and the 1842 Philadelphia issue both have identical mintmarks, however the estimated population of 1841-O is about one quarter that of the 1842-O.

Ex. George L. Levy, 17 years

PCGS #383

Ex. Storer C. Luttrell, H. Thomas and Merena, April 10-12, 1986; Lot 2097

2012 1842 Breen-3028. AU-58 (NGC). A satiny example with magenta and blue toning over lustrous surfaces. The reverse is semi-profile in finish. Sharply struck from perfect dies without evidence of cracks or other imperfections. As a common date that is unavailable in all grades, the 1842 is important for type purposes.

PCGS #384

Ex. Stuart C. Luttrell, M.D., Bowers and Merena, April 10-12, 1986; Lot 2097

2013 1842-O Breen-3029. EF-45 (PCGS). Pale gray surfaces with splashes of light green toning. An attractive example with only light evidence of circulation. This date is very hard to locate in the finer circulated grades. Apparently, nearly all of the 350,000 pieces delivered went immediately into circulation.

PCGS #385

Purchased from Norm Pulen on January 26, 1985

2014 1843 Breen-3031. AU-58 (NGC). Lustrous silver surfaces with peripheral gold toning. Digit 1 in the date is lightly repunched. Light clashmarks are present on both sides. All-in-all, this is a pleasant representative of the issue.

PCGS #386

2015 1844 Breen-3033. MS-61 (NGC). Boldly struck with the date very heavy and exhibiting slight recutting; however, this does not bear the diagnostics of any repunched date variety as described by Breen or other authors. Pale silver surfaces with light gold and blue toning. At Blvthe suggests that the Normal Date varieties of the 1844 Half Dime are rarer and should command higher prices.

PCGS #387

Ex. Carl Gobius, April of 1982, Lot 1960



2016 1844-O Breen-3037. Large O, MS-61 (NGC). Lustrous silver surfaces with intermingled gold and pale blue toning. The obverse is sharply defined while the reverse has leaves at upper left mostly flat, almost identical in appearance to the plate coin in Al Blvthes' reference. This variety was described by Breen as a Large O while other authors describe the reverse as having a Medium O mintmark. Whatever designation you choose, this is a scarce issue that is extremely rare in Mint State. The other variety with Small O seems to be somewhat more plentiful. This is one of the most elusive of all Half Dime issues in Mint State preservation. Only about a dozen Mint State examples have been certified by both PCGS and NGC.

Jan 2000 MS-61 examples have been certified by NGC along with three finer specimens - MS-65 lines!

PCGS #388

Ex. Stuart C. Luttrell, M.D., Bowers and Merena, April 10-12, 1986; Lot 2097

2017 1845 Breen-3039. V-5. Doubled Date, MS-61 (NGC). Frosty silver surfaces with peripheral gold and iridescent toning. Sharply struck. This is a scarce variety that has occasionally been offered as an 1845-3 overdate in the past. The date is sharply doubled at upper left of each digit. Seldom encountered in Mint State. We believe that this variety is somewhat underrated, yet not quite deserving of the designation "rare." Today, it seems that the importance of this variety has been diminished too far for years past. At one time it was considered an important rarity, yet remains quite scarce today.

PCGS #389

Purchased from Eastern Coin Exchange on August 15, 1983



2018 1846 Breen-3040. AU-55 (NGC). Grayish-brown surfaces with splashes of pale blue toning. A lovely example of this important issue. A circulation strike example from the Valentine-1 dies with shield point over the right edge of the upright of the 1 in the date. Proofs (which are actually more common than higher grade circulation strikes) have the shield point over the left side of this digit.

When all grades are considered, several Liberty Seated half dimes have lower certified populations, but we believe that the 1846 is the rarest With Stars Seated Half Dime. Just 27,000 pieces were struck, probably an accurate reflection of the actual mintage. We doubt that any examples of this date were struck in later years. A survey of Liberty Seated collectors, recorded in *The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dimes*, suggests this issue ranks fifth out of 39 issues reported.

NGC Census: 3+ with a further three finer.

PCGS# 4336.

Ex: The Metropolitan New York Sale (New England Rare Coin, April 10 - 12, 1980) Lot 1111

2019 1847 Breen-3041. AU-58 (NGC). Satiny surfaces with attractive golden brown toning. The digit 1 is recut below the base. Very sharply struck. This is generally considered to be a common date, however, experience suggests that high quality examples are quite difficult to locate.

PCGS# 4337.

Purchased from Becker & Kuchmert on October 2, 1992

2020 1848 Breen-3045. Medium Date. AU-58 (NGC). Satiny silver surfaces with wisps of gold colored toning. The medium sized date slants down to the right with the top of the 1 joined to the rock, the digit 8 almost centered between the rock and border. This is another issue that is surprisingly elusive in the finer circulated and Mint State grades.

PCGS# 4338.

Purchased at the ANA on July 23, 1988



2021 1848-O Breen-3048. Medium O. MS-63. A very difficult issue to locate in any Mint State grade with this example displaying excellent aesthetic appeal. Satiny silver surfaces with pale blue and light gold toning on both surfaces. Three distinct mintmark size varieties exist for coins of this date, and all are scarce.

Formerly certified by NGC as MS-63.

PCGS# 4340.

Purchased from Norman Pallen

2022 1849/6 Breen-3053. MS-61 (NGC). Tiny artifacts on the top surfaces of the date elements identify this as the 1849/6 overdate, according to the Breen Encyclopedia. The NGC holder does not describe this as an overdate. Satiny silver surfaces with light gray luster and splendid peripheral gold toning.

PCGS# 4342.

Purchased from Mike Graham on July 4, 1987



2023 1849-O Breen-3054. MS-64 (PCGS). An incredible choice Mint State example with frosty silver surfaces and light champagne toning. Very weakly struck with extensive evidence of die wear. This issue is very rare in Mint State grades, and is usually found in much lower quality. Examination of the present coin suggests why this is the case. After just enough wear has been received to eliminate evidence of luster, the resulting specimen will only have enough remaining detail to grade Good or VG, even though the amount of wear would be equivalent to a nice VF or EF coin.

This is one of only 11 so graded examples at PCGS, and none have been certified finer.

PCGS# 4341.

Ex: The I.W. Hoffecker Collection (Superior Galleries, February 8 - 11, 1987) Lot 828

2024 1850-Breen-3055. EF-45 (PCGS). The mintage of this issue, 955,000 coins, suggests a plentiful date that should not be difficult to locate. Specialists in the series, however, will recognize this as one of the dates that is not seen with any degree of frequency in today's market. Some light antique silver patina appears to drift toward the borders of this partially lustrous example. Uncommonly distraction-free for the grade with overall sharp definition.

PCGS# 4345.

Ex: Purchased from Caen Galleries July 1982 Lot 1521

2025 1850-O Breen-3057. Medium O. AU-55 (PCGS). In New Orleans, 690,000 Half Dimes were produced in 1850 with three major varieties recognized today. These varieties represent nimmark size variations with the Small O being scarcest and the Large O being the most plentiful. In higher circulated and Mint State grades, examples of all three varieties are elusive. This otherwise silver tinged example displays tan-russet peripheral toning on the reverse with streaks of similar color here and there on the obverse. Both sides are equally bold in detail with no post-production distractions worthy of mention.

PCGS# 4346.

Ex: The Robison Collection (Stack) February 10 - 13, 1982 Lot 858

2026 1851 Breen-3059. MS-62 (NGC). A splendid example with satiny luster and excellent eye appeal. Both the obverse and the reverse have light silver surfaces with pale champagne toning at the center gradually changing to gold and sea-green patination near the borders. The eye appeal is significantly stronger than one might expect for the BU level of preservation.

PCGS# 4347.

Purchased from MGS/NSI on January 8, 1998

2027 1851-O Breen-3060. MS-62. A satiny Mint State example with warm dove-gray toning. Splashes of light blue toning add to the overall eye appeal on both sides. This issue is much scarcer than its mintage of 860,000 pieces might suggest. It is almost certainly the case that nearly the entire mintage entered immediate circulation, only to be hoarded for silver content over the next few years, with many later being melted.

Formerly certified as MS-63 by NGC.

PCGS# 4348.

Ex: The Century Collection (Superior Galleries, February 1 - 4, 1992) Lot 1439

2028 1852 Breen-3061. MS-62 (NGC). Satin lustre subdued by deep heather, blue, and iridescent toning. A lovely example with exceptional eye appeal. Very sharply struck. This is a surprisingly difficult issue to locate in any grade. In fact, this is only the second 1852 Half Dime to appear in one of our auctions over the last four years.

PCGS #349

Ex: Bernard Shore Collection (Superior Galleries) January 30 - February 2, 1988 Lot 88



2029 1852-O Breen-3062. AU-58 (NGC). Highly attractive with excellent silver surfaces on both obverse and reverse. The obverse has solid blue peripheral toning while the reverse exhibits muddled gold iridescence in the denudes. Light die-stamps on neck areas on both sides. The mintage of 300,000 coins for the 1852-O suggests very scarce issue regardless of grade. As a general rule, the New Orleans mint issues of this era are much rarer than their Philadelphia Mint counterparts.

PCGS #450

Ex: The Oliver Collection (Bowers and Merena Galleries) September 16, 1988 Lot 107

2030 1852 Breen-3063. No Arrows. MS-62 (PCGS). 100% original die-cast with very sharp striking elements and exceptional eye appeal. Both obverse and reverse have frosty, bright toning. Some darker areas of intermixed pale tones and other light areas. The date clearly visible on the reverse. Not available on the numismatic island of the 1853-O. See James' Half Dime discussion in his book through modern times in the May 1987 issue of Numismatist. The 1852-O is the most abundant coin in circulation. The date is extremely bold and stands out from the rest of the coins in the group. Very attractive body of coins with the true mint.

PCGS #351



2031 1852-O Breen-3064. No Arrows. AU-55 (NGC). This coin is another important opportunity for the advanced collector. Both the obverse and the reverse have pale green surfaces with light golden highlights. A few minor surface marks are seen on both sides of the coin. The date displays considerable weakness—a hallmark striking characteristic of this issue.

The 1852-O No Arrows Half Dime is a very scarce coin especially in higher grades due to a very limited production run during the first couple of months of minting. The weight standard was changed by Congress with legislation early in 1853 in order to bring the silver value of the Half Dime back in line with its face value. Most of the old time No Arrows coins were melted.

PCGS #352

PCGS #353

Ex: The Robson Collection (Stacks) February 10, 1982 Lot 565

2032 1853 Breen-3065. Arrows. MS-61 (NGC). Gravish-brown in tone with wisps of iridescent toning over satiny lustre. Faint alterations appear to keep this coin from a higher grade. This an important and popular three year type with the addition of small arrowheads to the left and right of the date. The purpose of this design modification was to provide easy identification for the Half Dime issues that were struck on reduced weight planchets.

PCGS #354

Purchased from Jim Eason on July 27, 1989

2033 1853-O Breen-3066. Arrows. AU-58 (NGC). A splendid example with golden-brown toning over otherwise silver tinged surfaces. Light wear is present on the highpoints, as expected for the grade. Despite a rather high mintage, few 1853-O Arrows Half Dimes are known in the finer circulated and Mint State grades. The advanced collector will quickly recognize the importance of this bidding opportunity.

PCGS #355

Purchased from Stack's on March 30, 1985

2034 1854 Breen-3068. Arrows. AU-55 (NGC). Gravish-brown surfaces are accented by wisps of peripheral blue toning, especially on the reverse. This is an attractive Choice AU example that is sure to please both the Half Dime specialist and the circulated type collector.

PCGS #356

Ex: Theodore Brooks Galleries Lot 117

2035 1854-O Breen-3071. Arrows. AU-58 (NGC). Light silver-toned surfaces are accented by pale gold and iridescent toning. A delicate fil example that is sure to please the collector. The AU-58 grade has always been one of our favorites because its combination of quality and price represents good value.

PCGS #357

Purchased from Mike Vizzetton on March 28, 1983

2036 1855 Breen-3073. Arrows. AU-55 (NGC). This example has upper bars of the arrows overlapping the base of Liberty. Gravish gold toning over frosty silver luster; both sides display only minimal highpoint rub from a short stint in circulation.

PCGS #358

Purchased at the Camden South Carolina Coin Show on September 26, 1983

2037 1855-O Breen-3074. Arrows. MS-61 (NGC). Lustrous light gray with splashes of iridescent toning. Quite well struck for the issue. This issue represents an import rarity in Mint State, despite a significant mintage of 600,000 coins. Remarkably few of the survivors do not display extensive wear.

PCGS #359

Ex: Robert Collection (Stacks) February 1982 Lot 872

2038 1856 Breen-3075. Open 6. MS-62 (NGC). This is a lovely example with deep russet, vivid blue, and iridescent toning, all over satin finished surfaces. This example is typical of the issue with weak obverse and reverse borders, yet more sharply impressed focal features.

PCGS #360

Ex: Ethan Collection (Superior Galleries) May 31 - June 2, 1987 Lot 564

2039 1856-O Breen-3079. Open 6, Large O. MS-62 (PCGS). In 1856, the earlier Stars Obverse design continued, although at the new lower weight that went into effect in 1853. At New Orleans, just over 1 million Half Dimes were produced. This Mint State survivor is bathed in rich apricot-gray toning that accents smartly impressed devices. Satiny in luster quality with no outwardly detracting abrasions.

PCGS# 4364.

Purchased from Winthrop Coin Company on February 17, 1991

2040 1857 Breen-3084. Retouched Hub. Closed 5. AU-58 (NGC). An attractive example with champagne, blue, and iridescent toning over satiny luster. A splendid choice for the date or type collector. Among Walter Breen's listings for 1857 are coins struck from hub varieties both before and after it was retouched by an engraver.

PCGS# 4365.

Ex: Eisen Collection (Superior Galleries, May 31 - June 2, 1987) Lot 583

2041 1857-O Breen-3087. Retouched Hub. AU-58 (NGC). Light gray surfaces with splashes of iridescent toning. A pleasing example with sharp design features, and one of the more plentiful O-mint Half Dime issues in today's market.

PCGS# 4366.

Purchased from Roy Ashe on October 4, 1982

2042 1858 Breen-3088. MS-64 (NGC). Frosty silver surfaces with pale peripheral gold toning. Sharply struck. Heavy clashmarks (as made) are present on both obverse and reverse. Although Mint State examples of this P-mint delivery are plentiful, those in the Choice grade range remain highly desirable among both date and type collectors.

PCGS# 4367 or 4368, 94368.

Ex: Purchased from Mid - America in May, 1990, Lot 45

2043 1858-O Breen-3092. MS-64. Highly lustrous with a frosty sheen beneath delightful multicolored patina. Sharply struck except that certain obverse design elements were polished out of the die, creating a large design void within Liberty's gown around the elbow and bottom of the pole. Heavy obverse and reverse clashmarks, also as produced. A strong candidate to represent O-mint Half Dime coinage in a high quality collection.

Removed from an NGC holder and formerly certified as MS-64.

PCGS# 4369.

2044 1859 Breen-3094. AU-58. Satin textured luster beneath deep bluish-green toning on both obverse and reverse. Sharply struck and well centered with light obverse and reverse clashmarks (as produced). This is the modified Seated Half Dime design by Anthony Paquet, an engraver who worked for the Mint primarily on pattern coins and medals.

PCGS# 4371.

Ex: Bernard Shore Collection (Superior Galleries, January 30 - February 2, 1988) Lot 921

2045 1859-O Breen-3093. MS-62 (NGC). Rather sharply struck with light gray surfaces and full luster. Splashes of gold and iridescent toning are present on the obverse. Lightly clashed dies. From a moderate production of 560,000 coins, all of which were from the old hub as opposed to that modified by Paquet.

PCGS# 4370.

2046 1860 Breen-3098. MS-61 (NGC). Brilliant silver luster with satiny surfaces and a few scattered wisps of very light golden toning. Sharply struck. First year of issue for the Legend Obverse design with the reverse modified and containing just the denomination HALF DIME within a wreath of cereals.

PCGS# 4371.

Purchased at the ANA on August 18, 1982

2047 1860-O Breen-3100. MS-62 (NGC). Full, vibrant luster is hidden beneath attractive toning. The obverse has intermingled golden-brown and light blue hues. The reverse, on the other hand, is awash in deep magenta and sea-green colors. A lovely example. Unlike the similarly dated Dime issue, the 1860-O Half Dime is quite common. This is the only New Orleans Mint issue of the type.

PCGS# 4378.

Ex: Purchased from Coin Galleries on July 15, 1998, Lot 1773

2048 1861 Breen-3101. AU-58 (NGC). Mostly sharply struck with splashes of gold and iridescent toning over lustrous, satiny features. The reverse has weak striking definition along the lower right edge of the wreath near the border.

PCGS# 4379 or 4380.

Purchased from Golden Eagle Coin on August 22, 1990

2049 1862 Breen-3103. AU-58 (NGC). Light gray surfaces with splashes of olive-orange tinting here and there. Both obverse and reverse have prominent clashmarks (as struck), but very little in the way of wear.

PCGS# 4381.

Purchased from Coin Gallery

2050 1863 Breen-3106. AU-55 (PCGS). An elusive circulation strike from a mintage of just 18,000 pieces, both sides are richly toned in dominant steel-gray hues. More vivid undertones are seen at direct angles, as are ample remnants of the original finish. Sharply impressed throughout, and problem-free for the Choice AU grade level.

PCGS# 4382.



2051 1863-S Breen-3108. MS-62 (PCGS). Fully lustrous with satiny, pale gray surfaces and whispers of light golden peripheral toning. Prominent obverse and reverse clashmarks (as made) are visible. Just 100,000 Half Dimes emerged from the presses in San Francisco in 1863, with the vast majority of survivors exhibiting more-or-less wear from circulation. The few Mint State survivors are from a small hoard dispersed in 1968. During the Civil War only the San Francisco Mint provided an appreciable quantity of silver and gold coinage; production at Philadelphia was quite limited. The Carson City Mint had yet to be a reality, and the Southern branch mints were captured by the Confederacy.

PCGS# 4384.

Ex: Greater New York Sale (Stacks, May 2 - 4, 1990) Lot 315



2052 1864 Breen-3109. MS-62 (NGC). This is a highly appealing example with satiny luster and sharp design features. Prominent clashmarks (as struck) are evident on both sides as are a few blushes of pale apricot patination. Just 18,000 business strike Half Dimes were coined in Philadelphia during 1864, along with a limited number of Proofs. It is the Proofs that are most often seen in high grade. On the contrary, existing circulation strikes are mostly well worn with Mint State survivors being quite elusive.

PCGS# 4384.

Purchased from Jack Beynon on August 23, 1990



2053 1864-S Breen-3111, MS-62 (PCGS). A pleasing Mint State example with satiny, mostly silver tinged luster and some pale gold apricot toning. Minor recutting is evident on the 100 digit at the date. Very sharply struck. Until the late 1960s Uncirculated examples of this issue were virtually unknown. A hoard dispersed in New York provided a few higher grade coins for collectors, but the 64-S remains rare in Mint State from a market availability standpoint.

(See also Examples from the 1864-S Breen-3111 series, page 13.)

Ex. Jim Graf Collection (Bowers and Merena Auctions)

1864-S

California Heritage Collection (Bowers and Merena Auctions)

1864-S



2054 1865 Breen-3112, MS-63 (PCGS). A solid Mint example with glowing luster and iridescent golden tones. Quite sharply struck, although not much deeper than most well-struck coins of its period of issuance. Only 13,000 residents made this 1865 Liberty Seated Half Dime. Purchased from J. J. Leppert on March 24, 1986.

Ex. Jim Graf Collection (Bowers and Merena Auctions)



2055 1865-S Breen-3114, Repunched Date, MS-63 (NGC). This example has an exceptionally strong and sharp strike described by Breen for it as "1865-1866". Reverse is diagnostic with the "green" by Al Minkler for a new series often called as "Mint-on-Satin" and featuring well-defined luster and a distinct array of small, irregular light-toned areas with no other areas of toning, occupying 1/2 portion of the field. A rare Mint State, but undoubtedly one of the most abundant during the early Civil War era.

Ex. Paul H. Adams Jr. and Gail R. Adams Collection (Bowers and Merena Auctions)



2056 1866 Breen-3117, MS-62 (NGC). Brilliant and lustrous with only light gold toning along the borders. The surfaces are light-abraded, most notably for the date. From a mintage of just 10,000 pieces, one of a long lineup of rare Philadelphia Mint issues from the Civil War and post-Civil War era.

1866-S

Purchased from Mike Graham on July 8, 1985



2057 1866-S Breen-3119, MS-63 (PCGS). This choice Mint State example has frosty luster beneath dusky silver-gray toning. Average strike for the issue. This date is seldom seen in such quality due to the fact that nearly all silver coins produced in San Francisco during the 1860s immediately entered circulation.

1866-S Breen-3119 above with 12 more (see below) 1866-S

1866-S

Purchased from Dana Samuelson on February 15, 1992



2058 1867 Breen-3120, MS-63 (PCGS). With just 8,000 examples coined, this date has the lowest mintage of any Liberty Seated Half Dime among those regularly issued (this does not include the unique 1870-S, as offered below). A rare and desirable issue, the present survivor displays somewhat muted luster beneath smoky silver toning. Whispers of pale gold color are also seen at the denticles. Sharply struck with no mentionable abrasions.

1867-S

Purchased from J. J. Leppert on February 22, 1989



2059 1867-S Breen-3121, MS-62 (NGC). The lustrous ivory surfaces are accented by hints of olive and iridescent toning. Although not fully struck, this piece appears above average in definition for the type. A scarce issue in all grades, the 1867-S (120,000 pieces produced) is particularly elusive in Mint State.

1867-S

Purchased from Ted Fann on November 30, 1981



2060 1868 Breen-3122, MS-63 Prooflike (NGC). This is a splendid and Choice quality Mint State example with brilliant surfaces. Both the obverse and the reverse display deeply mirrored fields supporting lustrous devices. Struck from lightly clashed dies, a feature that perhaps most readily evident on the obverse around the field.

The current NGC Census Report lists three 1868 Half Dimes with a "Prooflike" designation, two of which grade MS-63 and the final coin of which grades MS-67.

1868-S

Purchased from Jim O'Donnell on March 24, 1986



2061 1868-S Breen-3123. MS-63 (NGC). Lustrous with a softly frosted sheen, the silver tinged surfaces exhibit mottled golden-russet peripheral toning. Sharply struck throughout with a few light reverse die cracks (as struck) around the S mintmark. A splendid example of this scarce issue, although the date is seen a bit more often than some of the earlier San Francisco Mint Half Dimes.

PCGS# 4393.

Purchased from Bowers and Merena on February 17, 1987



2062 1869 Breen-3124. MS-64 (PCGS). This choice example is approaching Gem quality, both sides possessing outstanding aesthetic appeal. The obverse has shimmering satin luster with distinct sea-green and heather toning. The reverse is mostly brilliant save for peripheral blue and iridescent shadings. Sharply struck. Light die polish lines (as made) are seen in the central reverse, these features helping to explain the modest semi-prooflike appearance.

PCGS# 4394.

Ex: The Tower Hill Collection (Bowers and Merena, September 13 - 15, 1993) Lot 1336

2063 1869-S Breen-3126. AU-58 (NGC). Pale silvery gray surfaces reveal the lightest golden tinting. Plenty of frosty luster remains, as does overall sharp striking detail. This is the variety discovered by Chris Pilloid and discussed by Al Blythe, having a prominent die chip in Liberty's skirt. Bold, normal date with a small S mintmark.

PCGS# 4395.

Purchased from Excelsior Coin Gallery on August 15, 1983

2064 1870 Breen-3127. AU-58 (NGC). Medium intensity grayish-brown patina overlays both sides with scattered steel colored highlights here and there. Frosty luster remains visible beneath. Light clashmarks (as struck) are visible on both the obverse and the reverse. The last few years of Half Dime production through 1873 generally saw much higher mintages than earlier years, although the delivery of this particular P-mint issue was still limited to 353,600 coins.

PCGS# 4396.

Ex: The Lee and Shaffer Collection (Superior Galleries, September 25 - 27, 1988) Lot 2476

2065 See Next Page, Page 8

2066 1871 Breen-3129. MS-64 (NGC). The otherwise golden-gray features are peripherally toned in mottled russet and cobalt hues. Pleasingly lustrous with above average striking detail for the type. This is a popular issue for type collectors due to a relatively high mintage and rate of survival.

PCGS# 4398.

Ex: Superior Galleries, February 8 - 10, 1998, Lot 1805

2067 1871-S Breen-3130. MS-61 (NGC). Lightly patinated, silver-gray centers are framed in dappled green, gold, and iridescent colors near the borders. Sharply struck with prominent obverse and reverse clashmarks (as made) in evidence. The San Francisco branch mint delivered a mere 160,000 Half Dimes in 1871, survivors of which are particularly difficult to locate in Mint State.

PCGS# 4399.

Purchased from Bowers and Merena on February 17, 1987

2068 1872 Breen-3131. MS-62 (NGC). Soft golden undertones back-light steel-gray patina. Both sides exhibit satiny luster with bold-to-sharp striking definition. A solid BU representative with remarkably few distractions for the assigned grade

PCGS# 4400.

Purchased from Cain Gallery

2069 1872-S Breen-3134. Mintmark Above Bow. MS-64 (PCGS). The otherwise brilliant, frosty textured surfaces reveal splashes of champagne iridescence on the obverse. This is a sharply struck and highly lustrous example that is sure to delight. The Mintmark Above Bow was the first S-mint Half Dime variant produced in 1872. The eye appeal of the present near-Gem would do justice to an even higher grade.

PCGS# 4402.

Ex: Frontiera Collection (Bowers and Merena, November 20 - 22, 1991) Lot 1106



2070 1872-S Breen-3135. Mintmark Below Bow. MS-63 (PCGS). A Choice example with frosty luster beneath sea-green and steel-gray patination. Very sharply struck and boasting solid eye appeal. This year was a transitional one of sorts for the Half Dime with the mintmark position moved from inside the wreath to below the wreath. Walter Breen conveniently recorded separate mintages for each of these varieties, based on the coinage of 475,000 pieces from January through June 1872 (Mintmark Above Bow) and 362,000 pieces from September through December (Mintmark Below Bow). We are not sure today if he actually found documentation that identified these two different varieties although we tend to doubt that such records exist.

A splendid issue with Frosty luster beneath Steel Gray patination. PCGS# 4401.

Purchased from David Stagg on July 7, 1994.

2071 1873 Breen-3137. Closed 3. MS-63 (NGC). Sharply struck and lustrous with frosty surfaces beneath vivid sea-green and amber-gold toning. Closed 3 in the date, as always seen on 1873 Half Dimes. This final-year issue has a Philadelphia Mint production of 712,000 coins. Walter Breen (1988) states that many of these pieces were later melted for recoinage into other denominations.

PCGS# 4404.

Purchased from H.E. F. Gallery on December 7, 1991

The Unique 1870-S Half Dime

The Ultimate Half Dime Rarity

A Choice Mint State Specimen Certified MS-63 NGC



2065 1870-S Breen-3128, MS-63 (NGC). Both sides are semi-prooflike in finish with moderately glowing fields evident beneath a rich overlay of original toning. The portrait is mostly charcoal-gray in hue, but direct light angles call forth more vivid golden-orange toner tones. The striking definition is typical of the type with overall bold detail that wanes a little bit over the highpoints of the reverse portrait and the reverse wreath. The S mintmark is filled. There are no outwardly distracting abrasions, but close inspection with a loupe reveals some wispy blemishes. Of course, the unique status of this coin and its necessity for inclusion in any complete set of Seated Liberty or United States coinage renders such discussions of its striking characteristics and surface presentation almost meaningless. This is the second time that we have handled this important silver rarity, and it is sure to be a memorable event.

The creation of this unique numismatic treasure is shrouded in mystery. What we know for certain is that the cornerstone of the second San Francisco Mint, the building that has become known as the "Granite Lady" and now serves as a museum, was laid in 1870. The young J.B. Hamstead struck a few coins for inclusion in the cornerstone, one of which is an 1870-S Three Dollar Gold piece struck from a reverse die into which Hamstead cut the S mintmark himself. (Apparently the dies had arrived from Philadelphia without the mintmark.) Hamstead also struck one additional 1870-S Three Dollar before the dies went back to Philadelphia, a coin that he kept for himself and mounted. This piece did not come to the auction of the numismatic community until March 1911, when it was offered in Thomas L. Elder's sale of one of William H. Woodin's collections. The auction lot included a piece of paper that read: "This is the duplicate of the coin struck for the cornerstone of the San Francisco Mint and the only one in existence, J.B. Hamstead." We believe that this statement may also explain the existence of the present 1870-S Half Dime.

It is likely, although unconfirmed, that an 1870-S Half Dime is also present in the cornerstone of the "Granite Lady." If so, then it is also probable that Hamstead struck one other example either for his own keeping or for presentation to some one of note at the cornerstone laying ceremony. This would be the coin that we are offering in this lot, although its whereabouts prior to 1978 are unknown. It seems that this coin's unique status and true value remained concealed for some period of time because it was discovered in the junk box of a Chicago dealer early that year. Since Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., the only person to ever assemble a complete collection of every known date, mintmark, and denomination of U.S. coins, passed away in 1976, he did not know about this coin's existence and, therefore, it was not included in our sale of the Eliasberg Collection.

As one final note of interest, the reverse die of the 1870-S Half Dime was also used to produce 1871-S Half Dimes.

(CS#130)

The history and market appearance of this important coin include: Unknown Chicago dealer, 1978; RARCOA, who placed it on display at the 1978 ANA Convention in Houston; Michigan dealer John Abbott, 1980, acquired for \$125,000; Four Memorable Collections Sale (Bowers and Merena, 9/1985) for \$76,000; when it realized \$176,000; Mutual Bank Superior's session of Auction '86, 7/1986, lot 1053, where it realized \$253,000; Larry and Ira Goldberg's sale of \$200,000, lot 1629.

2072 1873-S Breen-3138. Closed 3. MS-62 (NGC). Fully lustrous with softly frosted surfaces and splashes of deep reddish-russet and iridescent toning drifting toward the borders. A lovely example of this, the final branch mint issue in the U.S. Half Dime series. From a mintage of 324,000 coins, survivors of which are typically offered in circulated grades.

PCGS# 4405.

Purchased from Essex North Rare Coins on April 13, 1990

SEATED DIMES



2073 1837 Breen-3216. No Stars. Large Date. AU-55 (NGC). Rich dove-gray surfaces with subdued luster beneath. The reverse has splashes of blue and iridescent toning, and both sides are overall sharp in definition. The No Stars coinage of 1837 were from two different date styles that display either small or large digits. This first-year example begins a wonderful collection of Liberty Seated Dimes, with every issue represented in the lots to follow.

PCGS# 4561.

Ex: R. Nelson Page Aspen Collection (Bowers and Merena) Lot 3199

2074 1838-O Breen-3218. No Stars. AU-58 (NGC). A later striking from rusted dies. Traces of frosty luster remain visible beneath pale gray and gold toning and iridescent accents. Some details are a trifle softly defined, a probable result of the advanced die state. This is the only New Orleans Mint issue in the No Stars Seated Dime series of 1837-1838. The '38-O is also the premier U.S. Dime from the Louisiana branch mint with a mintage of 406,034 pieces. Considerably more challenging to locate in AU and Mint State grades than the 1837 No Stars.

PCGS# 4564.

Ex: Westchester Collection (Bowers and Merena) Lot 1596

2075 1838 Breen-3221. Partial Drapery. AU-58 (NGC). Lustrous surfaces are adorned with mottled gold, blue, and sea-green iridescence that is most prevalent on the obverse. As struck clashmarks are seen on both sides, one of which has resulted in "drapery folds" being added to Liberty's right (facing) elbow. (Actually, this "drapery" is the remnants of clashmarks from the E in DIME that were not completely removed by repolishing of the die.) This is one of few clashed die varieties in the U.S. coinage series to be given a separate listing in the major coinage catalogs and encyclopedias.

This is actually a clashed die with remnants from the E of DIME visible at Liberty's elbow, giving the appearance that one of the Mint engravers attempted to add drapery to this die.

PCGS# 4570.

2076 1839 Breen-3222. Normal Date. AU-58 (NGC). An example for the specialist who appreciates originality, both sides are mostly lustrous beneath a rich overlay of cobalt-blue, gold, and dove-gray toning. Lightly abraded, as befits the grade, yet free of singularly bothersome features. A minimally circulated, overall sharp representative of the short-lived No Drapery Seated Dime of 1838-1840.

PCGS# 4571.

Ex: Robison Collection (Stacks, February 10-13, 1982) Lot 1040

2077 1839-O Breen-3227. Small Mintmark. AU-55 (NGC). The otherwise pale gray surfaces are highlighted with splashes of olive-russet patina toward the borders. Pleasingly original, and retaining ample evidence of a sharp impression. Only two pairs of dies utilizing the Small O reverse were used for production of the 1839-O Dime, along with four die pairs with the Large O.

PCGS# 4572.

2078 1840 Breen-3228. No Drapery. AU-58 (NGC). The otherwise golden-gray surfaces reveal speckles of cobalt and reddish-russet toning toward the denticles. Plenty of frosty mint luster is seen beneath these original colors. With a mintage of just under 1 million coins, the 1840 was produced in fewer numbers than any other Stars Obverse No Drapery Dime.

PCGS# 4573.

Purchased from Edger of Vienna on November 27, 1982

2079 1840-O Breen-3231. No Drapery. Large O. AU-58 (NGC). Breen (1988) describes this variety as very rare. Rich golden-red iridescent accents otherwise silver-gray surfaces. Crisply impressed with minimal highpoint rub and shimmering remnants of a lustrous finish. Conditionally scarce, and a find for the Seated Dime enthusiast.

PCGS# 4574.

Purchased from Mike Grubstain on December 10, 1983

2080 1840 Breen-3232. Drapery. AU-53 (NGC). Pleasing silver-gray surfaces with splashes of deeper toning outlining some of the devices. Ample remnants of satin luster are seen. The 377,500 1840-dated Dimes with Drapery on the obverse were all delivered in December of that year. Survivors are more difficult to locate than those of the similarly dated No Drapery issue. In fact, the NGC Census hardly illustrates the relative rarity of these two deliveries: 78 No Drapery examples have been certified at all levels, whereas only 13 Drapery pieces have been graded.

PCGS# 4578.

Purchased from Jack Beymer on December 13, 1983

2081 1841 Breen-3233. AU-58 (NGC). Light silver surfaces with splashes of gray and champagne toning drifting toward the peripheries. Mostly brilliant, and quite attractive despite having seen very light circulation. Seemingly earmarked for inclusion in a high grade circulated type set.

PCGS# 4579.

Purchased from Alice Graham on June 7, 1985

2082 1841-O Breen-3238. Small O. AU-55 (NGC). The mostly olive-gray surfaces reveal a slight lilac tint over much of the reverse. There are also olive and powder-blue highlights at the denotives of this boldly detailed survivor. A pleasing example despite the presence of some wispy abrasions. Varieties exist known as Closed Bud and Open Bud, a reference to the tiny berries within the reverse wreath. Open Bud coins, such as the present example, have these berries split down the middle. The Closed Bud coins are extremely rare.

PCGS# 1880

Purchased from Jim's Gazette on March 31, 1983.

2083 1842 Breen-3239. MS-63 (NGC). Attractive olive gold and orange russet iridescent tones decorate the otherwise steel-gray surfaces of this samey example. A plentiful issue for the type collector at least in circulated grades, the 1842 variety ranks in Mint State grades 6 or above the China level.

PCGS# 1881



2084 1842-O Breen-3240. Medium O. AU-58 (NGC). An important opportunity for the advanced operator in Seated Liberty coinage is this 1842-O medium date from New Orleans. Details sharp, surfaces with olive and verdigris tones added to those. Despite a reported mintage of over 3 million pieces, the 1842-O is exceptionally challenging due to its appealing silvered and oxidized two-color surfaces combined with scarce, high relief of the reverse depicting a Minotaur.

PCGS# 1882

MS-63

From "The Silver Dime Collector's Cabinet" by Jim's Auctions, October 1983, pgs. 10-11.

2085 1843 Breen-3242. MS-61 (NGC). Economy date surface with a mix of light grayish olive-green and reddish-orange. The strike is bold, the edge sharp on all areas and there are but moderately faint toning/darkening. While the 1843-O 1 dollar piece probably commands nearly the same premium listed, coins from the twelve years out should have similar auction room price of similarity.

PCGS# 1883

Purchased from Jim's Gazette on November 1983.

2086 1843-O Breen-3245. EF-45 (PCGS). This is an interesting and undeniably original example with pewter-gray gamma-toned lightly circulated, yet full overall bold features. The number of coins available is relatively minimal for an O mint silver coin that was 15 years at war. The 1843-O is often seen as a lower mintage issue with just 150,000 pieces produced. When one considers that most of these coins saw heavy, if not continual circulation, the importance of this Choice EF survivor should be obvious. An important bidding opportunity that is probably not soon to be repeated. The two obverse dies of this date were minted with the Medium O reverse of the [842] O delivery.

[842] O is only coined 12 months into date while grade 6. The journal article "The 1843-O Seated Liberty Dime" covers this coin in detail. PCGS# 1884

MS-63

PCGS# 1885

Mint State 1844 Seated Liberty Dime

A Well Known Rarity in This Series



2087 1844 Breen-3246. MS-61 (NGC). This is an abnormally lustrous representative of the issue that is certainly among the highlights of the extensive Seated Dime offerings in this sale. Glistening satin features are evident as the coin rotates under a light, the outward appearance being dominated by rich, original, multi-colored toning in steel gray, reddish-orange, and cobalt-blue hues. Possibly struck up with a single moderate abrasion in the right obverse field being noted for accuracy. As produced die file marks are evident in the reverse field between the tops of the letter NINE and UNITED and the border.

Held in New York City on April 28, 1984. Lot 1887.

PCGS# 1886

See "Jim's Gazette" April 28, 1984, Lot 1558.

2088 1845 Breen-3249. Doubled Date. AU-58 (NGC). Satiny luster is evident in attractive reddish-gray toning. A popular variety with repunching most readily evident on the final two digits in the date, although this feature is not noted on the NGC insert. Problem-free for the grade, and of obvious importance to variety specialists.

PCGS# 1887

Held in Vienna, Austria on November 27, 1982.

2089 1845-O Breen-3250. AU-53 (NGC). The otherwise steel-gray toning lightens to dove-gray hues over much of the reverse. This issue is not known for sharp striking detail, but the present survivor is better than most with light highpoint rub hardly inhibiting the overall bold appearance. Lightly abraded, yet free of singularly distracting handling marks. In regard to the conditionally rare status of this issue, Breen (1988) simply states "usually in low grades...prohibitively rare Unc."

PCGS# 1888

Purchased from Tim Jewell on April 25, 1983.

Low Mintage 1846 Seated Dime

Important AU-58 PCGS Preservation



2090 1846 Breen-3251. AU-58 (PCGS). Attractively toned surfaces are predominantly steel-gray in sheen, although we do note some cobalt-blue highlights at certain angles. Minor die chips or rust marks within the final two digits of the date give the appearance of recutting, although such is not the case. A rare date with a mintage of just 31,300 coins, the 1846 boasts the lowest mintage of any Stars Obverse Seated Dime. It is also one of just six issues of this type with an original delivery of fewer than 100,000 coins. The high grade (AU-Mint State) rarity of the 1846 is nicely illustrated by the PCGS Population figures noted below.

Just three examples have been certified AU-58 by PCGS, and there is only a single MS-63 representative finer.

PCGS# 4588.

2091 1847 Breen-3253. AU-50 (NGC). This variety has all four digits in the date overlapping the base of the rock upon which Liberty is seated. In fact, the top of the 1 nearly touches the shield point. Mostly silver-gray in tone, both sides exhibit rich russet colored outlines to most of the devices. Seemingly well struck, as evidenced by the overall bold definition that remains despite having seen 10 points of wear. The mintage for this issue was limited to 245,000 coins, and survivors are scarce-to-rare in virtually all grades.

PCGS# 4589.

Ex Stacks, November 9, 1982, Lot 1721

2092 1848 Breen-3254. AU-55 (NGC). Pleasing pearl-gray surfaces with splashes of iridescent golden-apricot toning near the borders. Neither the striking quality nor the surface preservation (for the grade) are worthy of criticism. Although more plentiful than the 1847, the 1848 (481,000 pieces produced) is deserving of careful consideration in grades at or near the Mint State threshold.

PCGS# 4590.

Purchased from Mike Graham on March 28, 1984

2093 1849 Breen-3255. AU-58 (NGC). Grayish-brown toning over subdued frosty luster. A light horizontal scratch is visible at left center of the obverse. This appears to be the Normal Date variety with out any evidence of repunching. Widespread hoarding and melting through the early 1850s means that the 1849 is scarcer than an original mintage of 839,000 pieces might suggest.

PCGS# 4591.

Purchased from John Giffin on July 27, 1983



2094 1849-O Breen-3262. Small O. AU-58 (NGC). An attractive example with remnants of mint luster beneath mottled reddish-rust set toning. With the exception of the right peripheral stars on the obverse, all features are suitably bold for an early O-mint product. The Small O variety of the 1849-O Dime is seldom encountered in any grade. When encountered at all, survivors, like those of the Large O variant, typically display extensive wear. We suspect that the present representative is probably one of the 10 finest '49-O Small O Dimes available to today's specialists.

PCGS# 4592.

Ex: Bratton Collection (Steve Ivey) Lot 348

2095 1850 Breen-3263. AU-58 (NGC). Predominantly lustrous, golden-gray surfaces with pale champagne highlights. The date is high in the field, 185 touching and the 0 free from the base of Liberty's rock. A smartly impressed example with minimal highpoint rub and a few small abrasions scattered about.

PCGS# 4593.

Purchased from the Camden South Carolina Coin Show on September 26, 1981

2096 1850-O Breen-3264. Large O. AU-55 (NGC). Remnants of frosty luster are overlaid by splashes of dove gray and cobalt-blue toning. Light abrasions are noted, none of which are worthy of undue concern. Well balanced and undeniably original. The 1850-O is known in small, medium, and large "unitmark" varieties. AU and Mint State examples of which are difficult to locate in today's market.

NGC Census 1st with only 30 total.

PCGS# 4594.

Purchased from Jerry Phillips on December 19, 1982

2097 1851 Breen-3267. AU-58 (NGC). Lovely pewter/gray toning is seen mostly on the obverse, the reverse exhibiting more of a silver-gray sheen. Both sides are predominantly lustrous with plenty of sharp striking definition in evidence. A problem-free, nearly uncirculated survivor of this early 1850s issue from the Philadelphia Mint.

PCGS# 4595.

Purchased from Norm Pullen on May 28, 1988



2098 1851-O Breen-3271. Large O. MS-61 (NGC). This is a satiny Mint State example with rich charcoal-gray toning and some bluish undertones evident at more direct angles. Hints of modest brightness are also seen in the fields as the coin dips into a light. There are no singularly conspicuous abrasions—an uncommon feature for the BU grade level. The 1851-O was produced to the extent of 390,000 pieces. This is a not an overly generous total, especially when one considers that circulation and/or melting took a heavy toll on all O-mint silver issues from the 1840s and early 1850s. One of the few Mint State survivors that we can remember handling in recent years.

NGC Census 1st, 5 lines.

PCGS# 4596.

Purchased from Summitt Rare Coins on May 22, 1992

2099 1852 Breen-3273. AU-58 (NGC). The date is set high in the field, but only the first three digits are joined to the base of the rock upon which Liberty is seated. The 1852 was produced in sizeable numbers for a Dime from this era, but we stress that many examples were probably melted in the years leading up to, as well as those immediately following, the passage of the Mint Act of February 21, 1853. This fortunate survivor is partially lustrous beneath an overlay of warm dove gray patina. Splashes of russet toning gravitate toward select peripheral areas, but the sharp striking definition is seen throughout. The number of scattered abrasions is commensurate with the grade.

PCGS 3+



2100 1852-O Breen-3275. AU-58 (PCGS). This type represents the first in which the New Orleans Mint struck Dimes in the weight standard of 2.57 grams. A very rare, the 1852-O is "fleeting as locusts at all facets of preservation." This is an important New Mint variety with dimensions from earlier issues determined by only one earlier rifle and smaller arrows. Braided hair, prominent and upright arrows, bold raised variety, brilliant silver-toned features. A highly desired coin. You would make a welcome addition to any graded Numismatic collection.

PCGS 3+
PCGS 45
PCGS 50
PCGS 55
PCGS 60
PCGS 65
PCGS 70
PCGS 75
PCGS 80

Previously from the J. R. Bowers and Merena Signature Collection. Includes a certificate of authenticity.

2101 1853 Breen-3276. No Arrows. MS-62 (NGC). Sharp strike with boldness of detail and strong definition over some scattered luster. As can and on reasonable handling results, a specimen example of the 1853 premium issue with its number on the left defining front the type with corresponding markings on the reverse. From 100,000 coins, this the particular variety, the mintage was #4,000 pieces, all of which were struck in February 1853 and most of which were uniformly graded toward premium condition for the New Arrow Arrows. Breen (1885) states that "Overshot Dimes" acquired a small premium Mint issue 1853 No Arrows Dime common before 1852, but no do it alone further out points to ample coin recovered to that date.

PCGS 3+

2102 1853 Breen-3277. Arrows. MS-61 (NGC). Luster is resolute, the luster is suitably vibrant for the assigned grade. Splashes of predominantly orange gold and olive toning are round and all features are sharply struck. Similar to Breen-3273 with the date heavy and the 5 appearing slouch however the digitizing want in the field and separated from the base of Liberty's rock. Here is an opportunity to build a fine New Arrow-Dime-Overshot-Dime/Mint State.

Previously from Stack's or Lichtenberg (D. 1982)

2103 1853-O Breen-3281. Arrows, Open 5. AU-58. This variety has the digit 5 in the date open with the knob and cusp clearly separated. With mottled, multicolored toning over satiny lustre, this is an attractive example of the issue. The otherwise suitably sharp strike wanes noticeably on the obverse over Liberty's head.

PCGS 3+ (NGC 3.5)

PCGS 45

Previously from Stack's on December 10, 1982

2104 1854 Breen-3282. Arrows. MS-63 (NGC). A splendid Choice quality representative, both sides gleam with frosty luster. The peripheries are toned with that on the obverse displaying vivid cobalt-blue and reddish-gold colors. Breen-3282, the Heavy Dark variant of the 1854 Arrows Dime is described by the author as rare.¹⁰ This variety was not known to Ahwash.

PCGS 3+

PCGS 45

Previously from the David Akers Numismatic October 9, 1982, lot 619

2105 1854-O Breen-3285. Arrows. AU-58 (NGC). Lustrous throughout both sides are toned in speckled champagne-russet and cobalt-blue shades. The devices are sharply impressed, the obverse impression being very slightly drawn to the right. Although the 1854-O was produced in respectable numbers by New Orleans Mint standards, this issue was considered rare in high grades until a small hoard of Uncirculated coins surfaces in December 1981.

PCGS 3+

Previously from J. J. Lippay

2106 1855 Breen-3289. Arrows. AU-55 (NGC). With an original partially lustrous sheen and bold-to-sharp definition, this golden-gray example would fit comfortably into a high grade circulated type set. There are no abrasions that are out of context with the assigned grade.

PCGS 3+

Previously from Bowers and Merena

2107 1856 Breen-3291. Large Date. AU-53 (NGC). Well struck with traces of original luster and wisps of both pale silver-gray toning and delicate golden undertones. There are no singularly bothersome abrasions on either side. After three years, the obverse arrows were dropped from the Seated Dime in 1856. Breen (1988) opines that most, if not all of the 150,000 pieces delivered on March 3 of that year display a large date logotype. Examples of this variety are more challenging to locate in all grades than those of the 1856 Small Date.

PCGS 3+

Previously from Eastern Corn Exchange

2108 1856-O Breen-3296. Large O. MS-63. This is a highly attractive example with satiny luster and slight traces of mirrored brightness in the fields. Perhaps the most significant visual feature is the undeniably original toning. Predominantly blue-gray in sheen, the patina assumes a more vivid reddish-orange cast over the left reverse. Boldly impressed with not a single outwardly distracting bagmark. With a mintage of more than 1 million coins, the 1856-O may appear common to the newer collector. This is hardly the case, however, and survivors are particularly rare at the Choice-Gem levels of Mint State preservation. Sure to excite the specialist.

Previously from a PCGS MS-63 holder.

PCGS 3+

Previously from Bauchensbach & Harry E. Smith Collections. Bowers and Merena. Jan 1626



2109 1856-S Breen-3300. AU-58 (NGC). Nearly full satiny luster with lovely apricot-gray toning that brightens appreciably at more direct angles. Lightly abraded, particularly on Liberty's head, yet uncommonly well preserved for the issue. The 1856-S (70,000 pieces produced) is a historically significant coin as the premier U.S. Dime delivered in the San Francisco Mint. Since few, if any collectors were active in the California of the 1850s, those high grade circulated and Mint State examples that are available to today's specialists survived almost certainly by chance. Worthy of careful consideration.

NGC Census: 6; with a further six finer.

PCGS# 4613.

Purchased from Jim O'Donnell on January 1, 1999

2110 1857 Breen-3302. AU-55 (NGC). Attractive silver-gray toning with traces of golden undertones evident at more direct angles. A relatively plentiful No Arrows, Stars Obverse issue, the 1857 is popular among beginning date collectors as well as type collectors.

PCGS# 4614.

Purchased from Jack Beymer on February 28, 1987

2111 1857-O Breen-3306. Medium O. AU-58 (NGC). Deep steel-gray toning envelope both sides, but there are also some iridescent undertones evident at a few angles. This is one of the more easily located New Orleans Mint Dimes with a sizeable (by the standards of the series) original mintage of 1.5 million pieces.

PCGS# 4615.

2112 1858 Breen-3307. Closed 5. AU-58 (NGC). This near-Mint type candidate is overall sharp in strike with richly original toning. The otherwise steel-gray sheen deepens to charcoal-gray hues toward the peripheries. A few reverse abrasions around the denomination are noted for accuracy.

PCGS# 4616.

Purchased from Norman Pullen

2113 1858-O Breen-3309. AU-53 (NGC). Warmly patinated in dove-gray shades, the surfaces are minimally worn with overall bold definition. Problem-free for the grade with only a few scattered abrasions. At the New Orleans Mint, Dime production dropped considerably in 1858 to just 200,000 pieces. Perhaps this was a result of the financial panic that gripped the nation during the course of the previous year. Examples that have survived are almost always found in well worn condition.

PCGS# 4617.

Purchased from the ANA on August 15, 1983

2114 1858-S Breen-3310. AU-50. The otherwise silver-gray features reveal some deeper color here and there from light corrosion. The surfaces are also a bit subdued from a cleaning, but the eye appeal is enhanced by overall sharp definition. One of just 60,000 pieces produced, most of which were lost to circulation on the frontier. A conditionally challenging issue that Breen (1988) describes as "rare."

PCGS# 4618.

Purchased from Kam Ahwash on March 10, 1983

2115 1859 Breen-3311. AU-58 (NGC). A lovely example with smooth looking, satin finished surfaces and rich dove-gray toning. Both sides are sharply defined, and there are no outwardly distracting abrasions. Type collectors who value originality will surely appreciate this P-mint Seated Dime.

PCGS# 4619.

Purchased from Excelsior Coin Gallery



2116 1859-O Breen-3312. Large O. MS-64 (PCGS). Shimmering with full mint luster, this softly frosted example is attractively toned in dominant antique gold hues. There are also rich charcoal-gray highlights at the obverse border and scattered around the reverse. We have no complaints about the strike, all features displaying crisp definition. The smooth looking, nearly Gem quality surfaces are also praiseworthy. While the 1859-O is among the more easily obtainable New Orleans Mint issues in the Seated Dime series, we stress that no delivery of this type from this branch mint should be considered common at such a high level of Mint State preservation as MS-64.

PCGS# 4620.

Purchased from Columbia South Carolina Coin Show on October 30, 1982



2117 1859-S Breen-3315. AU-58 (NGC). The Engraving Department at the Philadelphia Mint shipped 6 obverse dies over to the San Francisco Mint in November 1858 for the later facility's delivery of 1859-dated Dimes. The reverse dies of the 1859-S were leftover from previous years of 5 mint Dime issues. This nicely toned example is overlaid in copper-gray hues that yield to a bluish of antique silver patination over the left center reverse. The strike is a bit soft toward the upper obverse and lower reverse borders, but there is little in the way of wear on either side. Problem free for the grade. With a limited original mintage of 60,000 pieces and a poor rate of survival, the 1859-S is scarce in all circulated grades and rare at the problem-free Choice AU level.

PCGS# 4621.

Purchased from Tom Simmons



2118 1860-S Breen-3316, AU-53 (NGC). Unlike its similarly dated P and O-mint counterparts, the 1860-S was struck using shield-style Obverse design of the Seated Liberty Dime. As one might suspect for a low mintage S mint issue from this era, the 1860-S is anything but common in today's market. In fact, even mid-grade (VF) examples should be considered scarce with minimally circulated survivors being legitimately rare. Originally coined in old silver base, the surfaces are partially bisected with hints of golden undertones evident at more direct angles. The strike is relatively bold, the devices displaying only minimal wear across the highest points of the design. Lightly abraded yet free of distracting marks that are out of context with the assigned grade. One of just 180,000 pieces produced.

PCGS Population Report: 1860-S Dimes

6,000+ coins

Ex: Bowers' American Numismatic Museum 26-28, 1980, Lot 183.

2119 1860 Breen-3318, Type I Shield, AU-58 (NGC). The proof is derived from the several strikes on the obverse shield above the F or LFB-105 containing the Breen attribution. This result is most interesting as it appears to represent a unique transition from standard obverse design to the later Mint-type obverse.

PCGS Population Report:

1860-S Dimes: Estimated 1,000-1,500 COINS



2120 1862-S Breen-3320, EF-45 (NGC). The most similar in design to the San Francisco Mint-produced 3-Dime coin (S-380), this striking, vibrant, and colorful variety was first reported before the early 1960s about fifteen years from Philadelphia's final year coin production. The legend "LIBERTY" is visible on the reverse of the 1862-O dime, but it is also seen on the reverse of the entire United States Dime series of 1857-1873. Thus we do term it a survivor of this 80,000 piece delivery, and that is not often it typically grades so fine. Of the approximately 1,000 EF specimens, it is generally bold (by definition) showing small light wear and a few of minor macro-abrasions in the left reverse wreath. Highly colored in olive-gray patina with distinct highlights and a few shallow gashes in the fields.

PCGS Population Report:

Ex: David L.坎农 - Gailor's Collection (Bowers and Merena Auctions, 6-7, 2000) & 1,250+

2121 1861 Breen-3322, Type II Shield, MS-62 (NGC). This high-endage coin required the preparation of a "reverse and re-reverse" die, the majority of the former most likely being of the Type II design. Softly finished with untoned centers, both sides are peripherally polished in golden-orange iridescence. A snappy-looking MS-type candidate with just some very abrasions confirming the grade.

PCGS Population Report:

1861-S Dimes

100+ coins

2122 1861-S Breen-3323, AU-53 (NGC). This silver-gray example retains a few faint traces of original mint luster in the more protected areas. This issue is typically found with more-or-less softness of strike, but we note that the present example exhibits emerging definition over the higher points of the obverse devices. There is also some light wear over the highpoints on both sides, but neither reveals any singularly mentionable abrasions. A rare About Uncirculated survivor from a workhorse S-mint issue of just 172,500 pieces.

PCGS Population Report:

Ex: Murray George Young and Van Ormer Collection (Bowers and Merena Auctions, 1985) Lot 753.

2123 1862 Breen-3325, AU-58 (NGC). This is a pleasing example with nearly complete luster and attractive toning in silver-gray and apricot shades. The surfaces are lightly abraded, as befits a silver coin that spent actual time in the avenues of commerce. This is the final year in which the Philadelphia Mint produced more than 500,000 Dimes until 1871.

PCGS Population Report:

2124 1862-S Breen-3327, EF-45 (NGC). Rich charcoal-gray toning encompasses both sides with some olive-gray tinting in evidence here and there. Liberty's head on the obverse and the upper left reverse wreath are a bit soft in strike, as often seen on examples of this type, but the overall definition is suitably bold despite light rub from circulation. None of the scattered abrasions are sizeable or singularly distracting. The classiness of this issue in AU and Mint State grades makes short shrift to choice EF survivors such as the present coin represent a good value for Seated Liberty date collectors. Only 180,750 Dimes were produced in the San Francisco Mint in 1862.

PCGS Population Report:



2125 1863 Breen-3328, MS-63 (PCGS). The outward appearance of this suitably bold example is one of a higher grade. There are, nonetheless, a few faint abrasions that seem to confirm the MS-63 designation. Peripherally toned in mottled cobalt-blue shades with a sharply-impressed obverse and just a few areas of striking incompleteness over the reverse wreath. Whereas the proofs of this issue were struck during nearly three months between March 5 and May 26, all 16,000 business strike 1863 Dimes were coined in March. Survivors of the latter delivery are seen with much less frequency than proofs.

PCGS Population Report:

1863-S Dimes

Ex: Bowers' Badica Collection (Superior Galleries, June 5 - 7, 1988) Lot 346.

2126 1863-S Breen-3329. EF-45 (PCGS). While not as scarce as the preceding two S-mint deliverics in the Seated Dime series, the 1863-S is still an elusive issue with just 157,500 pieces produced. The otherwise silver-gray surfaces reveal splashes of olive-charcoal toning around Liberty's portrait on the obverse and in a few of the more protected areas on the reverse. There are no areas of bothersome striking incompleteness—a noteworthy feature for the issue as well as the type—and the amount of remaining definition seems to suggest an AU designation. Generally smooth in outward appearance with none but the smallest abrasions evident upon closer inspection.

PCGS# 4638.

Purchased from Liberty Coin Co. on July 12, 1985

2127 1864 Breen-3331. AU-58 (NGC). The Philadelphia Mint registered a delivery of just 11,000 business strike and 470 proof Dimes in 1864. This is a rare survivor of the former issue, the obverse displaying rich olive-charcoal toning that lightens to antique gold hues in the center. The reverse is mostly silver-gray in sheen, and both sides reveal blashes of original luster as the coin dips into a light. Smartly impressed, and free of singularly mentionable abrasions. An important bidding opportunity for the Seated Dime specialist.

PCGS# 4639.

Purchased from Jim O'Donnell on July 29, 1984

2128 1864-S Breen-3332. AU-58 (NGC). The light silver tinged patina that overlays both sides allows full appreciation of a predominantly lustrous, frosty textured sheen. The strike is generally sharp, yet not complete, and the number of wispy abrasions is well within the confines of the near-Mint grade level. The San Francisco Mint achieved a delivery of 230,000 Dimes in 1864 with four pairs of dies shipped from the Philadelphia Mint in October 1863. A scarce issue, particularly when minimally worn.

PCGS# 4640.

Purchased from Brian Greer on August 19, 1992

2129 1865 Breen-3333. AU-58 (NGC). Mottled copper-russet and steel-gray toning is seen on both sides with rich cobalt blue shadings around the obverse periphery. This is the final Civil War Dime issue, and it is a low mintage coin with just 10,000 business strikes and 500 proofs produced. Mint records show that all of the former were produced in April 1865, literally at the end of the Civil War since Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House on April 9. This important piece is one of only four 1865 Seated Dimes graded AU at NGC.

PCGS# 4641.

Ex: Long Beach Sale (Heritage, September 1999), Lot 5136

2130 1865-S Breen-3334. EF-45 (PCGS). Although produced in limited numbers, the 1865-S, like the other Civil War era S-mint Dimes, is an under-rated rarity in both circulated and Mint State grades. Richly toned in "old silver" hues, both sides also reveal a few speckles of charcoal tinting. The S mintmark is softly impressed, as typical for the Breen-3334 variety, but all other features are suitably bold in detail for the type. Free of individually mentionable abrasions.

PCGS# 4642.

Purchased from Liberty Coin Co. on July 12, 1985

2131 1866 Breen-3336. MS-61 (NGC). Breen (1988) states that circulation strike 1866 Dimes (just 8,000 pieces produced) were struck from proof dies in January of that year. The present example is semi-prooflike in finish, particularly on the obverse, but it is not to be confused with a more common specimen striking. The impression from the dies is sharp over all features save for Liberty's head on the obverse and the ribbon that binds the wreath on the reverse. Both sides are richly toned, the base of silver-gray color displaying more vivid accents of reddish-orange and golden-blue colors. Lightly abraded, as befits the grade, yet possessed of uncommonly strong eye appeal for the BU level of preservation.

PCGS# 4643.

Purchased from Mike Guban on August 14, 1984

2132 1866-S Breen-3337. AU-53 (NGC). Unevenness of strike is typically a problem for San Francisco Mint Dimes from the late 1860s. This particular example, however, presents as bold with only minor softness of detail in a few isolated areas. Both sides are richly toned in gunmetal-gray patina; there being more but a few wispy not outwardly detracting abrasions. Certainly among the more appealing circulated survivors of this low mintage (135,000 pieces), conditionally challenging issue.

The obverse die was "racked" at the time of mintage—America's first to be used through the eyes of a liberty sparrow.

PCGS# 4644.



2133 1867 Breen-3339. AU-55 (NGC). Champagne gold-toning and blue toning adorns satin finished surfaces. This is an interesting example of a surprisingly elusive issue. This date has the lowest mintage of any Liberty Seated Dime issue with just 10,000 business strikes produced, all of which emerged from the presses on January 29. Although some other issues may be rarer in the finer grades, there can be no doubt that high quality (AU-Mint State) 1867 Dimes are important rarities.

PCGS# 4645.



2134 1867-S Breen-3341, AU-58 (NGC). The luster is nearly full both sides exhibiting a frosty sheen that is perhaps just *just* more vibrant on the reverse. Golden-gray in tone, the strike is among the sharpest that we have seen for any S-mint Dime from this era. Scattered high- and moderate abrasions are noted, but the eye appeal is exceptionally strong for a circulated survivor of this importance and condition to rare issue. A small swipe in the obverse field behind Liberty's head is noted.

The original 1867-S Dime from the Jim Graf Collection (Bowers and Merena, April 17, 1988) lot 2346)

2135 1868 Breen-3342, MS-62 (PCGS). This original mule is full and substrate-bright with strong, incuse fields exhibiting moderate horizontal highlights at more sharp angles. Collar-like indentures are also seen, but the overall appearance connotes low-to-moderate circulation. A sharply struck and very nicely detailed RL representative of this one of the most plentiful (or common) mule varieties known to us. Roman Dimes from the 1860s, comparatively scarce, particularly in PCGS grades, are becoming increasingly popular with collectors and dealers.

Obverse from Jameson Blue Collection (Bowers and Merena, July 1988)



2136 1868-S Breen-3346, MS-64 (NGC). Is this mule evidence of some coming market bottom? Many, and I mean very sharply struck, but a bit less important survivors from a mintage of only 250,000 pieces. *Obverse from Jimson Blue Collection (Bowers and Merena, July 1988)*

2137 1869 Breen-3348, AU-58 (NGC). The walking Liberty is softly, mostly held by the tree with only the retainer angle showing a few scattered marks. The mule is a lovely, well-defined cobalt-blue, antique gold, peach, and blossoms give steady fine details and some sharp, thin edge engravings. We are unable to locate a fully depicted eagle on either side of the mule.

Obverse and reverse from Jimson Blue Collection (Bowers and Merena, July 1988)

2138 1869-S Breen-3349, AU-55, Proofset at Dimes at the San Francisco Mint reached up to 450,000 coins in 1869. While this mule may now qualify by today's standards, it is usually the highest for this denomination at the branch mint for the entire decade of the 1860s. There is very little wear in evidence on either side of this originally tonal, olive-gray survivor. Sharply struck and free of any readily discerning abrasions. Close inspection with a loupe reveals some light granularity in the planchet that is freely confined to the reverse.

Obverse and reverse from Jimson Blue Collection (Bowers and Merena, July 1988)



2139 1870 Breen-3350, MS-64 (NGC). Originally just a halfmark of both sides, the otherwise cobalt-blue toning yielding to golden hues at the denticles. The strike is overall sharp and generally free of collarism, and the otherwise frosty textured luster rises to the most modest hints of brightness in the fields. A small abrasion in the right obverse field is all that seems to bar this conditionally scarce example from an even higher grade.

*NGC Census #1, Source:
PCGS 3951*

Purchased from the 1996 Fair Show



2140 1870-S Breen-3352, AU-50 (NGC). Although six pairs of dies were shipped to San Francisco for this delivery, it seems probable that only a single marriage was used to deliver all 50,000 examples of the 1870-S Dime. With such a paltry original delivery, it should come as no surprise that the "70-S is an elusive coin at all levels of preservation. Most survivors offered either at auction or for direct sale display considerable evidence of wear, and a not insignificant number are porous. Not so the present AU example. The surfaces are problem-free for the grade with dove-gray toning that lightens a bit on the reverse. The few moderate size abrasions are well scattered, and most devices are at least bold in definition. A coin that should have little trouble finding its way into a specialized collection of Stated Liberty coinage.

*NGC Census #1, Source:
PCGS 3952
Ex: Merrill H. Patterson Collection (Bowers and Merena, March 25-26, 1998) lot 657*

2141 1871 Breen-3353, AU-58 (NGC). This is a delightful example with intense reddish-lilac, cobalt-blue, and champagne-russet toning overlapping considerable remnants of mint luster. The occasional abrasion is seen in the fields. Since mintage figures of P-mint Dimes increased significantly beginning in 1871, it is survivors from this decade that are often chosen by collectors to represent the Legend Obverse type.

*NGC Census #1, Source:
Ex: Frank F. Hollar, Jr. Collection (Farmer Rooker Numismatist, December 2, 1988) lot 303*

Incredible Mint State 1871-CC Dime Condition Census Standing



2142 1871-CC Breen-3357, MS-62 (NGC). Although the Carson City Mint began coinage operations in 1870, the initial delivery of Dimes did not take place until February of the following year when 6,400 1871-CC examples were delivered. A further 13,700 pieces followed for a total mintage of just 20,100 coins. Since there was essentially no collector interest in CC-mint coinage at the time of production, virtually the entire mintage entered circulation and remained there for many years. In addition, the survival rate of this issue was further diminished by the Carson City Mint's practice of using pure Comstock silver for its earliest deliveries. While this "shortchanging" of the annealing process saved time in production, the resulting coins were subject to corrosion and porosity to a much greater degree than similarly dated examples from the other operational Mints.

Simply put, this is one of the finest 1871-CC Dimes extant, and it is one of the most significant silver offerings in this sale. The surfaces are lustrous throughout with a soft, satiny sheen. Untoned save for mottled golden-russet iridescence that is more extensively distributed over the reverse. The strike is uncommonly sharp in all areas with some emerging definition over the upper left reverse wreath that is particularly noteworthy for the type. Minor shelf doubling is also seen over select features in the wreath. There are no mentionable abrasions, and we are also unable to locate a single pedigree marker. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first auction appearance for this important coin, and it not likely to reappear on the market in the near future.

The Carson City Mint began operations in 1870 and was a direct result of gold and, especially, silver discoveries in the region. While gold was mined in Nevada since 1849, the Comstock Lode was discovered a decade later in 1859. The 1911 edition of The Encyclopedia Britannica discusses this silver discovery: "In 1859 the discovery of the famous Comstock Lode in Western Nevada led to the building of Virginia City, a prosperous community on the side of a mountain where human beings under ordinary conditions would not have lived, and eventually brought a new state into existence."

Combined NGC and PCGS population for Mint State 1871-CC Seated Dimes is a mere six coins that range in grade from MS-61 through MS-65. This paltry total confirms the Condition Census standing of the example in this lot.

PCGS# 4654.
Ex: 55th Anniversary Sale (Stacks, October 17-18, 1990) Lot 370



2143 1871-S Breen-3355, AU-58 (NGC). The obverse has pale heather-gray and light blue toning whereas the reverse is toned in more vivid champagne-gold tinting. While the San Francisco Mint produced relatively large (for the era) quantities of other silver and gold denominations in 1871, the Dime seems to have been in much less demand with the result that only 320,000 pieces were produced. The striking characteristics of the 1871-S are similar to those of the 1870-S with isolated areas of softness of detail on both sides.

PCGS# 4655.

Purchased from Mike Graham on November 16, 1984

2144 1872 Breen-3358, AU-58 (NGC). Rich cobalt-blue and orange-russet peripheral shadings frame brilliant centers. Sharply struck in most areas with the expected number of wispy abrasions for a lightly circulated example.

PCGS# 4656.

Purchased from Stacks on December 10, 1982



2145 1872-CC Breen-3361, AU-55. Sharply struck throughout, the surfaces are uncommonly free of sizable circular toning marks for a CC-mint coin. Both sides, however, have been cleaned and subsequently retoned in deep charcoal shades. Nevertheless, this is an important survivor of this second-year Carson City Mint Dime delivery with an original mintage of just 35,480 pieces. It is perhaps significant that our sale of the Eliasberg Collection included a 72-CC that graded only VF.

There are two known die marriages of the 1872-CC. Some claim Breen 1886 is not sure whether both of the obsoletes that the Engraving Department of Philadelphia prepared for the dealers were used, but the assumption that the two different die types were employed. That represented by the present example, is the same used to strike the 1872-C. No 1872-CC Dimes (there were also offerings in the sale) albeit in an earlier state with the dies not yet cleaned through the numerous runs being made.

PCGS# 4657.

Ex: Stacks June 20 - 21, 1985 Lot 99



2146 1872-S Breen-3360, AU-58 (NGC). A conditionally rare offering, this richly toned example is a survivor from an original mintage of just 190,000 pieces. The base color on both sides is one of copper-gray shade but one can also see more vivid champagne-apricot and golden-blue shadings as the coin rotates under a light. We have no complaints about the strike, and the relative (for the grade) lack of distracting abrasions is also a praiseworthy feature.

NGC Census #80 14 coins in all grades.

PCGS# 4658.

Purchased from Bob Everett on November 29, 1984

2147 1873 Breen-3363, No Arrows, Closed 3, Doubled Date, AU-58 (NGC). This variety was discovered by Kenneth R. Hill and first reported in the March 1979 edition of *The Gadrech Journal*. It is attributable by the remnants of previously entered digits to the left of the bases of the 1, 7, and 3 in the date. Richly toned in copper-gray shades, there are also suggestions of powder-blue toning around much of the obverse periphery. The razor sharp strike is anything but common for the Legend Obverse type and the surfaces have survived a short stint in circulation without acquiring any singularly noteworthy abrasions. Examples of this issue were delivered between January 15 and February 28, 1873, after which the Mint changed the 3 so that the date would not be confused with 1878.

*PCGS 58**Purchased from David L. Ganz*

2148 1873 Breen-3364, No Arrows, Open 3, MS-62 (NGC). This variety dated 1873-3 corresponds to the 1873 No Arrow that produced only 10,000 coins, making it rare. This is a rare issue and the block that most of the 160,000 pieces originally produced during early 1873 is underlined by the desire to make no mistake for the new Arrow variety. A fortunate survivor, the coin in her bid is about half MS-62, consisting of a 10% reduction of planchet weight. Sharp striking could be called "definition" but are notable for being very numerous. All are known to contain numerous Obverse facets (open M/F). Some examples feature a "W" and a definition line from the upper obverse.

*PCGS 62***2149 Six Facing page, Page 19.**

2150 1873 Breen-3366, Arrows, AU-58 (NGC). This variety is noted for having marginal dove-gray toning. With its unique reverse, striking transformation and a unique looking obverse, this near-Mint example should fit nicely into a late-year 1873 set.

Purchased from William Salter

1873-CC Arrows Dime Rarity

Problem-Free AU Preservation



2151 1873-CC Breen-3371, Arrows, AU-50 (NGC). The 1873-CC is one of only two Carson City Mint issues in the short-lived Arrows Seated Dime series of 1873-1874. While not as elusive as the 73-CC, the 73-CC is still a legitimately rare issue that is especially difficult to locate with problem-free surfaces. Not only is the present example free of detracting porosity and singularly blemishes some abrasions, but it retains plenty of bold definition with only light highpoint wear in evidence. The strike while a tad soft over Liberty's head on the obverse and a few features in the reverse slightly off, is uncommonly sharp for the type. Both sides are richly toned in dominant dove-gray shades that yield to a blush of cobalt blue toning at the upper right border. Worthy of a premium-quality bid.

Sold Direct from Jim Gray on November 16, 1991
PCGS 50

Sold Direct from Jim Gray on November 16, 1991
PCGS 50

2152 1873-S Breen-3369, Arrows, AU-58 (NGC). Attractively toned in silver-gray and champagne-apricot iridescence, this minimally worn survivor retains ample evidence of a sharp strike. Lightly abraded, yet possessing blashes of original luster in many areas. With a much smaller mintage of 455,000 coins, the 1873-S Arrows is scarcer than the 1873 Arrows and, thus, would make a worthwhile addition to an advanced type set.

*PCGS 58**Purchased from Miss Graham on November 16, 1991*

2153 1874 Breen-3372, Arrows, AU-58 (NGC). Remnants of satiny luster are visible beneath dove-gray and iridescent toning. A lovely example for the grade with sharp striking definition and no distractant of note. While not a rare issue, demand for this two-year type keeps prices strong and availability limited.

*PCGS 58**Purchased from Peter Brigg on June 6, 1991*

Unique 1873-CC No Arrows Dime

The Eliasberg Specimen



2149 1873-CC Breen-3365. No Arrows. Closed 3. MS-65 (NGC). The Carson City Mint delivered its first 1873-dated Dimes on February 5 of that year. A total of 12,400 pieces were struck on that date using a single obverse die and one of the leftover reverses of the 1872-CC delivery. The obverse die displayed a Closed 3 with no arrows flanking the date. For years, numismatic scholars have believed that none of these coins were placed into circulation and that, rather, the entire mintage with the exception of those pieces reserved for assay purposes was retained at the Mint. The fate of these coins was certainly melting, the bullion being utilized for production of the slightly heavier 1873-CC Arrows Dimes authorized by the Mint Act of February 12, 1873. As for the assay pieces, they were shipped to the Philadelphia Mint and reserved for inspection by the annual commission that met on February 11, 1874 to review the coinage of the previous year. Using destructive tests, the Assay Commission evaluated the coins' weight and precious metal content. Those examples not tested were later melted or, in some cases, placed into circulation.

We are certain that this fully lustrous, virtually pristine Gem is a former Assay Commission coin that was not tested. It was not, of course, destroyed, and the level of surface preservation also indicates that this piece was definitely not placed into circulation. We believe that this 1873-CC No Arrows Dime was set aside at the Philadelphia Mint after the Assay Commission convened. The preservation of this coin was certainly intentional, as it has obviously been handled with great care since the day of striking. Perhaps a Mint employee, or even the curator of the Mint Cabinet, recognized this coin's importance and obtained it for face value. If this did happen, then at some point over the next 35 years the Mint's appraisal of this piece's importance seems to have diminished because it had no qualms about releasing it into the numismatic community as part of a mixed cache of coins.

During the early part of the 20th century, John W. Haseltine and Stephen K. Nagy dominated the Philadelphia numismatic scene. Their close ties with Mint personnel allowed them to obtain many spectacular rarities and disseminate them into collectors' hands. Thus, for example, did the hobby learn of the existence of 1884 and 1885-dated Trade Dollars in 1907-1908. A year later, in 1909, Haseltine and Nagy sold a pair of 1877 Fifty Dollar Half Union patterns for the then extraordinary sum of \$10,000 each. Up until this time, these specimens were unknown to numismatists. The buyer was William H. Woodin, later Secretary of the Treasury under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Apparently, Woodin's acquisition of these coins was followed by an uproar over whether or not these patterns should have ever left the Mint. Giving in to the pressure, Haseltine and Nagy agreed to return the Half Unions to the Mint in exchange for "several crates" of coins, most of which were patterns. These patterns, which went into the Woodin Collection, were used by numismatic researcher Edgar H. Adams, his work with them eventually leading to the 1913 publication of the Adams-Woodin pattern reference.

Although not confirmed, we believe that a solitary 1873-CC No Arrows Dime, the present example, was included in the crates of coins that Haseltine and Nagy acquired from Mint officials. This make sense because Woodin obtained the '73-CC No Arrows Dime at around that time, later displaying it at the 1914 ANS Exhibit. Wayte Raymond auctioned some of Woodin's collection, along with that of H.O. Granberg, in his May 19-21, 1915 sale entitled "Collection of a Prominent American." The 1873-CC No Arrows Dime was included in Woodin's consignment, and the successful bidder was Rudolf Kohler, a prominent New York numismatist. The next owner of note was Charles M. Williams, a Cincinnati businessman, who then consigned it, along with several other rarities that included a Class I ("Original") 1804 Silver Dollar, to the 1950 sale of the Adolphe Menjou Collection. The cataloger, Abe Kosoff, understood the rarity of the 1873-CC No Arrows Dime, but he did not recognize its unique status. Two bidders at the sale, however, did have an accurate assessment of this coin's significance.

Among the bidders at the Menjou Collection sale was Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., who had flown in from Baltimore with the

express purpose of buying two coins: the 1853-O No Arrows Half Dollar and the 1874-CC No Arrows Dime. Eliasberg acquired the Half for \$890, but for the Dime he faced considerable competition from dealer James Kelly. The bidding opened at \$1,100, and Eliasberg remained in the fray until convinced that Kelly had no limit. When the gavel fell, Kelly and co-purchaser Sol Kaplan were the winners, acquiring the coin for \$3,650. Kelly did not own the coin for long, however, selling it to Eliasberg on November 7 of the same year. The acquisition of the 1874-CC No Arrows Dime allowed Eliasberg to finish his complete set of U.S. coinage.

Our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection saw the 1873-CC No Arrows Dime offered on May 22, 1996 as lot 1198. Noted numismatist Waldo Bolen was the successful bidder at that sale. Bolen had spent years building a complete set of U.S. Dimes. Although he had already sold that set which was complete save for the 1873-CC No Arrows, he acquired this piece for the satisfaction of knowing that he had once owned an example of every single U.S. Dime issue. Bolen then became enamored with 1873-dated Carson City Mint coinage, deciding to build a complete 11-coin set around the unique No Arrows Dime. This task he also completed, the fruits of his labor appearing at auction in April of 1999.

The Eliasberg specimen of the 1873-CC No Arrows Dime that we are offering in this lot is lustrous with a glistening, satin sheen. Both sides are lightly patinated in golden iridescence that deepens ever-so-slightly to apricot and powder-blue hues in select peripheral areas. The strike is *sharp*, if not full, throughout, and there are no abrasions that would call into question the validity of the Gem designation. A pair of tiny ticks in the reverse field below the M in DIME, however, are noted for accuracy.

Key Date 1874-CC Seated Dime
Noteworthy At ~~\$1~~ Grade 4 NGC



2155 1874-S Breen-3375. Minute S. MS-61 (NGC). The otherwise untoned surfaces are splashed in iridescent russet, gold, and cobalt-blue patina. The overall sharply impressed features are suitably lustrous for the grade with a smattering of wispy abrasions. As an aside, the 1874-S \$20,000 pieces produced) is a conditionally challenging issue although it has suffered somewhat from living in the shadow of its similarly dated CC mint counterpart. Breen (1988) describes the Minute S variety as "rare."

1256 1875 *Breen-3377*. MS-62 (NGC). Fully lustrous with satin textured surfaces that are overlaid in blended rainbow colored toning. The reverse is a bit bluntly struck, but the obverse is sharper, and both sides are silent on the subject of individually bothersome hairline marks.

2157 1875-CC Breen-3382. Mintmark Above Bow. Wide CC. MS-61 (NGC). The lustrous, satiny, and ivory tinged surfaces are accented in wisps of champagne tinting. The obverse impression is overall sharp, that on the reverse revealing a few areas of softer definition here and there. We are unable to locate any abrasions of note, but the reverse exhibits several interesting die breaks (as struck) that include a retained cud at lower right border. From 1875 through 1877, demand for smaller denomination coinage seemed to increase considerably in the Carson City area, this resulting in relatively sizeable mintages. The 1875-CC is, therefore, a strong candidate to represent this branch mint in a type set.

PCGS# 4673.

Purchased from Quinton King at 1996 Fun Show



2158 1875-CC Breen-3384. Mintmark Below Bow. MS-65 (NGC). While the 1875-CC is among the more plentiful CC-mint issues in the Seated Dime series, those coins with the mintmark below the bow are in the minority among survivors. Gems of both variants are rare. Wonderfully original, the surfaces are fully lustrous with a softly frosted finish beneath splashes of sea-green, reddish-orange, and golden iridescence. The generally sharp, distraction-free features would stand for nothing less than a Gem designation.

NGC Census: 8; only one is finer.

PCGS# 4674.

Purchased from Norman Pullen

2159 1875-S Breen-3378. Mintmark Above Bow. MS-62 (NGC). Fully lustrous with satiny surfaces and iridescent champagne-russet toning that appears to drift toward the obverse border. The reverse is brilliant save for delicate champagne highlights at the denticles. Struck from a shattered reverse die, yet sharply detailed on both sides with no post-production distractions of note. In 1875, mintmark variations exist for both the Carson City and San Francisco Mints, with the placement either inside the wreath or below the ribbon bow. Among Carson City coinage, those with mintmark below the ribbon bow appear to be scarcer, while for San Francisco Mint issues, the opposite is the case.

PCGS# 4677.

Purchased from Jack Beymer on August 23, 1990

2160 1875-S Breen-3379. Mintmark Below Bow. Minute S. MS-61 (NGC). This pleasingly toned, apricot-gray survivor is free of both bothersome striking incompleteness and singularly mentionable bagmarks. A fully lustrous representative of the type.

PCGS# 4676.

Ex: Greater New York Convention Sale (Stacks, May 2-4, 1990) Lot 380

2161 1876 Breen-3386. Type I. MS-62 (NGC). Beautifully toned, the obverse is overlaid in slightly mottled olive-green patina. The reverse, while equally original, displays a rose-gray center within cobalt-blue and golden-orange peripheral shadings. Average for the type, if not slightly above, the strike is bold in most areas. Shimmering mint luster is seen as the coin rotates under a light, the grade most likely being confirmed by wispy abrasions.

Struck from the old (1860-1877) reverse hub, as identifiable by the location of the I in DIME relative to the leaf directly below. The Breen-3386 variety is also attributable by the small knob on the 6 in the date.

PCGS# 4679.

Purchased from Cain Gallery

2162 1876-CC Breen-3397. Doubled Die Reverse. MS-62 (PCGS). This crisply impressed representative is awash in mottled steel-blue and lilac-gray shades. The luster is satiny in texture, and the surfaces appear uncommonly distraction-free for the BU level of preservation.

The reverse doubling is most readily evident on the E in ONE and the E in DIME. PCGS# 4680.

Ex: Bowers and Merena, Lot 119

2163 1876-S Breen-3393. Type I. MS-62 (NGC). A pleasing BU example with satiny luster that is accented by splashes of iridescent reddish-gold toning. Bold-to-sharp in strike, and possessed of modest hints of brightness in the fields. According to Breen (1988), the sizeable mintages of Dimes from 1875 through 1877 were intended to retire Ten Cent Fractional notes.

PCGS# 4681.

Ex: Coin Galleries, February 27, 1985, Lot 1903

2164 1877 Breen-3402. Type II. MS-62 (NGC). Pale grayish-brown toning overlays both sides with full satin luster beneath. This well struck example would fit comfortably into a Mint State type set.

PCGS# 4682.

Purchased from Heritage

2165 1877-CC Breen-3406. Type I. MS-63 (NGC). Very sharply struck with shimmering frosty luster, both sides are accented in mottled champagne silver iridescence. The number of wispy abrasions is consistent with the Choice designation. A lovely Mint State representative of Seated Dime coinage at the Carson City Mint.

This coin was struck from what appears to be a doubled reverse die with the doubling most noticeable on the letters in ONE DIME. The die does not, however, appear to be the same as that represented by the 18-6-CC Doubled Die example offered above.

PCGS# 4683.

Ex: St. John's Abbey Collection (Flanner Rooker Numematists, November 13, 1986) Lot 214

2166 1877-S Breen-3404. Type II. Tall S. MS-61 (PCGS). The satin finished surfaces are overlaid in mottled steel-blue and champagne-russet iridescence with the former shade dominant on the obverse. A smartly impressed example whose surfaces appear smooth enough to warrant consideration at a finer grade level.

PCGS# 4684.

Purchased from the ANA Show on August 7, 1986

2167 1878 Breen-3412. Type II. MS-62 (NGC). BU quality type collectors who appreciate originality would be wise to enter strong bids for this richly toned example. The otherwise russet-gray coloration reveals bright rainbow tinged highlights as the coin rotates under a light. There are no areas of worrisome striking softness, nor can we find a noteworthy abrasion. Perhaps a bit subdued in the luster category, this precluding a Choice assessment.

PCGS# 4685.

Purchased from Bob Everett on March 25, 1985



2168 1878-CC Breen-3414. Type II. MS-64 (NGC). After producing sizable numbers of Dimes in 1875, 1876, and 1877, the Carson City Mint delivered just 200,000 pieces in 1878. This year also proved to be the last in which the Nevada branch mint struck silver coins of this denomination. This is among the more vibrant survivors that this cataloger has seen, the centers exhibiting reddish-gray toning within more-or-less extensive gold and blue peripheral accents. Sharply struck throughout with surfaces that are expectantly distraction-free for the near-Gem level. Conditionally scarce, and difficult to surpass at the major grading services.

PCGS# 4686.

2169 1879 Breen-3415. Repunched Date. MS-63 (NGC). Breen (1988) lists four different obverse dies for this issue, a somewhat surprising total given a business strike mintage of just 14,000 pieces. The otherwise soft frosted luster thins to modest brightness in the fields. Delicate steel-gray iridescence decorates both sides, there also being pale golden-blue rim accents evident at direct angles. Sharply struck, as befits the issue, with a noteworthy lack of detracting abrasions.

PCGS 4093

2170 1880 Breen-3419. MS-62 (NGC). This originally preferred example is overlaid in tan-gray toning with more vivid golden undertones. The original finish is particularly vibrant on the reverse, the fields revealing modest hints of brightness at certain angles. A well struck survivor from a digital mintage of just 37,355 pieces.

PCGS 4094

2171 1881 Breen-3420. MS-61 (NGC). Somewhat deeply toned in charcoal and russet shades, both sides are sharply struck. Subdued luster and an obverse scar in the field below the date are the most likely grade-defining features. The 30,000+ population of all levels of presentation due to a limited business strike mintage of just 6,000 pieces.

PCGS 4095

See also item 2170 above for additional details.

2172 1882 Breen-3421. MS-64 (PCGS). This is a gorgeous Second Dime featuring a date both sides have been abraded at the inner loops. Interestingly, reddish-orange toning and orange-gold toning adheres to the peripheral borders and corners, essentially bypassing the center. Superb strike from the 25,000+ issue of just 10,000 pieces. The surfaces are very bright, though some field wear is evident for the high end. Priced accordingly.

PCGS 4096

See also item 2171 above for additional details.

2173 1883 Breen-3424. MS-64 (PCGS). Fine surfaces. Uniform reddish-orange toning covers the entire reverse of this piece, though the center shows a distinct reddish-orange wash, and there are some fine, sparse raised abrasions.

PCGS 4097

See also item 2172 above for additional details.

2174 1884 Breen-3425. MS-64 (NGC). Only half-moon worn surface with subtle iridescent tones. This is a delightful example that offers a nice combination of light toning, some darker areas, and a moderately wide planchet. The reverse is centered in the MS-64 grade, but provides great value, despite its premium.

PCGS 4098

See also item 2173 above for additional details.



2175 1884-S Breen-3426. Small S. MS-63 (NGC). Sharply struck throughout with brilliant white, white centers and whispers of champagne-apricot peripheral iridescence. Powerfully impressed with only a few small bagmarks rolling over an even lighter Luster grade. Although the San Francisco Mint concentrated on striking Morgan Dollars in the years from 1878 to 1883, it returned to Dime production in 1884 with a delivery of 566,969 pieces.

PCGS 4099

2176 1885 Breen-3428. MS-64 (NGC). Sharply struck with deeply set, yet pleasing copper-gray toning over frosty luster. A splendid and choice Mint State example, the surfaces offer sharp striking detail and a lack of bothersome abrasions.

PCGS 4100

Purchased from Breen Green on August 4, 1992.



2177 1885-S Breen-3430. AU-55 (NGC). 8 mm Dime production plummeted to 43,690 pieces in 1885, a fact that makes the 85-S among the keys to the later Seated Liberty series. The scarcity of this issue in Mint State further confirms the importance of this Choice AU survivor. Remnants of mint luster are seen on both sides, particularly around the peripheral devices. The surfaces are evenly tonal in warm dove-gray shades with only the lightest rub evident along the highpoints. Uncommonly free of outwardly noticeable abrasions despite having spent actual business limited time in the avenues of commerce.

PCGS 4101

Ex. The Estate of the Pastel Painter and Merena, November 3 - 6, 1985 lot 1336.

2178 1886 Breen-3431. MS-64 (NGC). The luster is not only full but elegant with a swirling carnelian-like heen. Both sides are peripherally toned in reddish-orange hues that accent crisply delineated features. These are hardly any abrasions in evidence, as befits the high Mint State grade.

PCGS 4102

Purchased from a local collector on January 6, 1995.



2179 1886-S Breen-3434. MS-63 (NGC). Original aqua-green toning is splashed over the obverse with some more vivid reddish-orange color at the denarios. The reverse is a bit more vibrant in the luster category with champagne-apricot rim highlights framing a nearly brilliant center. Sharp in strike, with uncommonly few abrasions even for the Choice BU level. The 1886-S is scarcer than the 1884-S, although it is often overlooked in favor of that issue. Both dates are not as elusive as the 1885-S.

PCGS 4103

Ex. Merena Collection (Bowers and Merena Lot 338).

2180 1887 Breen-3435. MS-63 (NGC). Swirling mint frost is seen as the coin dips in and out of the light. Both sides are originally toned, the obverse displaying a mostly champagne-gray sheen with a splash of cobalt blue color over the lower left. The reverse is more uniform in appearance with silver-gray shading. Boldly, if not sharply struck throughout with no abrasions that would seem to preclude an even higher rating.

PCGS 4104

Purchased from MGS on April 5, 2000.

2181 1887-S Breen-3437. MS-63 (NGC). Fully brilliant with frosty luster, both sides are sharply struck in virtually all areas. Scattered abrasions are noted, but we stress that none are out of context with the assigned grade. The San Francisco Mint's production of Dimes increased substantially in 1887 over 1884-1886 levels. As one might suspect, the 1887-S is a more plentiful issue than the 1884-S, 1885-S, and 1886-S, and it is actually among the more plentiful dates of this type.
PCGS# 4699.

2182 1888 Breen-3439. MS-62 (NGC). Delicate golden iridescence decorates lustrous, radiant surfaces. Cartwheel visual effects and overall sharp striking detail are also praiseworthy features of this late date P-mint Seated Dime.
PCGS# 4700.
Purchased from Heritage

2183 1888-S Breen-3441. MS-62 (NGC). Whereas the reverse is mostly brilliant, the obverse is tinted in steel-gray iridescence. This example would probably warrant a Choice BU designation were the luster a bit more vibrant.
PCGS# 4701.
Ex: Westchester Collection (Bowers and Merena) Lot 341

2184 1889 Breen-3444. MS-64 (NGC). Overall smooth with a lustrous, satiny sheen, the surfaces are smartly impressed throughout. Blushes of more or less faint, iridescent toning adhere to the denticles in powder-blue and champagne hues. Expectantly distraction-free for the near-Gem level of preservation.
PCGS# 4702.
Ex: Stacks. November 29 - 30, 1989. Lot 608

2185 1889-S Breen-3445. Large S. MS-61 (NGC). Both sides are originally toned in dominant silver-gray patina. Certain angles reveal highlights of iridescent champagne and powder-blue color, but even the most casual inspection will confirm that the striking quality is well above average for the type. The general lack of bothersome abrasions would seem to suggest a finer Mint State grade.
PCGS# 4703.
Purchased from Mike Graham on April 24, 1985

2186 1890 Breen-3448. MS-62 (NGC). The otherwise golden tinged toning assumes a reddish-russet cast toward the peripheries. The latter feature is more notable on the obverse, but both sides are equally well struck with only one or two isolated areas of incompleteness of detail. Lightly abraded, but no more so than one should expect for the grade.
PCGS# 4704.
Ex: Greater New York Sale (Stacks, May 2 - 4, 1990) Lot 405

2187 1890-S Breen-3450. Large S. MS-63 (NGC). The penultimate S-mint delivery in this long-lived series, the 1890-S is a popular issue among type collectors. The Large S is the more plentiful of the two *Guide Book* varieties. The luster is bright and vibrant with an overlay of mottled sea-green, reddish-russet, and orange-gold color on the obverse. The central reverse is untoned with dappled powder-blue and apricot tinting toward the border on that side. Sharply brought up in all areas, and silent on the subject of individually reportable bagmarks.
PCGS# 4705.
Ex: Westchester Collection (Bowers and Merena) Lot 1615

2188 1891 Breen-3454. MS-64 (NGC). Lovely orange-gray toning envelops both sides with a more vivid sheen on the obverse. This is a fully original example whose overall sharp features are free of mentionable abrasions. Solidly graded as a near-Gem, and a find for the final-year type collector.
PCGS# 4706.
Purchased from Renrov Coins on August 13, 1992

2189 1891-O Breen-3460. MS-63 (NGC). The New Orleans Mint returned to Dime production in 1891 after a 31-year hiatus. Produced in sizeable numbers, the 1891-O is a plentiful issue that is always in demand among branch mint type collectors. Frosty-white in sheen, this lustrous example is bold-to-sharp in strike with no overly conspicuous abrasions.
PCGS# 4707.
Purchased from Leroy Lenhardt on February 2, 1989

2190 1891-S Breen-3466. Repunched Mintmark. MS-64 (NGC). An outstanding and Choice example, both sides are drenched in frosty luster. Both the suitably bold striking detail and delicate silver tinting enhance further the eye appeal of this final-year Seated Dime. This is a very scarce RPM that is described as "Large over Small S" by Walter Breen and "Medium S over Small S" by Brian Greer. Not identified as such on the NGC insert.
PCGS# 4708.
Ex: Stacks. December 2 - 3, 1992. Lot 1736

SEATED QUARTER DOLLARS

2191 1838 Breen-3935. Briggs 1-A. No Drapery. AU-58 (PCGS). Wonderfully original, this piece is richly toned in lavender-gray shades that yield to vivid blue and gold iridescence toward the borders. The otherwise sharp strike wanes a little over the upper obverse—a feature that we have seen on many survivors of this issue. Direct angles call forth remnants of mint luster, a tiny glaze in the lower obverse field being the only distraction of note. A historically significant issue, the 1838 is the premier Seated Liberty Quarter. It is also one of only three issues in this series to display Christian Gobrecht's original rendition of Thomas Sully's Seated Liberty design for the Quarter. Original mintage: 466,000 pieces.
PCGS# 3991.
Ex: Stacks. March 12 - 14, 1991. Lot 255

2192 1839 Breen-3936. Briggs 1-A Die State. No Drapery. AU-50 (PCGS). The rich gummey-grav toning that overlays both sides speaks volumes about the originality of this AU representative. Light highpoint rub is noted, but the overall definition is sharp and obviously the result of a strong impression from the die. Some scattered circulation marks are noted, none of which are outwardly distracting. The 1839 is the second of only three No Drapery issues of the type, and its original mintage of 491,146 pieces is similar to that of the first-year 1838.

Note from the same reference as the 1838: Briggs 1-A. Quarter in die state. A good trial impression of the coin, not all of the dies. Reverse shows that variety was discovered by John M. Cudler in 1971, and designated his die nomenclature as the second of the 1838 series. A late die, one die which has rung in a lessening of the blank, allowing it to run the coin the least as it starts to die. It is also a "hinge" die, which means that the coin is held in place by the hinge, and it is this hinge that outside the rim in AMERICA.
PCGS# 5922.

Purchased from Jonathan K. Kern



2193 1840-O Breen-3939 Briggs 2-B, No Drapery, AU-58 (NGC). This example is almost certainly from the New Orleans Hoard. We discussed this hoard in our January 2001 catalog. This hoard came to light around noon on October 29, 1982, when excavation activity for the new Mardi Gras Hotel in the French Quarter of New Orleans revealed three long buried wooden boxes filled with coins. Veritable pandemonium prevailed as business executives, tourists and others gawked in the sun and mud to find treasures. A few 1840-O Quarters and many 1841-O Quarters were among the coins that has since become synonymous with Mint State examples of those two dates. The settings are often oxidized bronze disks showing great toning. The drapery typically seen on New Orleans Hoard examples is not found on this coin, so do not let this factor reveal any singularly identifiable difference. The collectors sharp eagle wears a bold, very likeable, dark-toned, big (lathered) olive branch and the back of his neck looks rough on the reverse. Breen (10000 metric) says only two samples of this die marriage were included in the New Orleans Hoard, but one is described incorrectly as the obverse die ground, no need to do so in this case. Only experience would allow one to recognize a difference in die style, but these proofs of the latter can be readily seen on the 1840-O No Drapery issue. It is advised to consult the present "Seated Quarters" (pp. 132-140) for further details on the present "classic" Obverses of 1840-O quarters and the more recent mint delivery of the 1840-O.

Obverse and reverse of a 1840-O Breen-3939 Briggs 2-B coin showing the drapery removed by Jim Galt. The reverse shows the eagle holding a shield and olive branch.

Certified from the Collection of Jim Galt, March 10, 1983.

2194 1840 Breen-3940, Briggs 1-A, Drapery, AU-58 (PCGS). Beginning in 1840 the Mint made a modified design for the Seated Quarter which is the so-called "Hobby Bell-Hughes". While the draped eagle added below Hobby's eagle (Gorgo) allows are the most easily identifiable feature of the coin itself, the Anglo-American numismatists actually recorded many instances of die original, fully Godwin-style drapes. Rather than a dark charcoal shade, the obverse original drapes are sharply engraved over the bold red areas. The reverse die controls were fully blunted by repeated, but not excessive, strikes of the obverse die, leaving distinct marks (blunt) on this feature.

Obverse and reverse of a 1840-O Breen-3940 Briggs 1-A coin showing the drapery removed by Jim Galt. The reverse shows the eagle holding a shield and olive branch.

Certified from Harry Baldwin's Collection, June 2, 1989.

2195 1840-O Breen-3943, Briggs 2-C Die State, Drapery, Small O, AU-50 (NGC). Although Walter Breen lists no mintmark varieties for this issue in his 1988 Encyclopedia, Larry Briggs (1991) states that only Small O and Large O varieties are known. This Small O example is richly and originally toned in deep gray shades. Lightly worn overall with plenty of bold definition and the usual number of small, wispy abrasions. Although several examples of this die marriage were found in the New Orleans Hoard, we do not know whether or not the present coin owes its existence to that source.

Obverse and reverse of a 1840-O Breen-3943 Briggs 2-C coin showing the drapery removed by Jim Galt. The reverse shows the eagle holding a shield and olive branch.

Certified from Jim Galt, March 10, 1983.

2196 1841 Breen-3945, Briggs 1-A, Doubled Die Reverse, MS-62 (PCGS). Gorgeously toned in steel-gray shades, the surfaces also exhibit vivid olive-gold undertones at more direct angles. This is a lustrous, softly frosted example with sharp striking detail over mostly sharp features. Minimally abraded for the assigned grade, and certainly appearing finer. The 1841 (120,000 pieces produced) is typically offered in well worn grades with Briggs (1991) assigning this issue an R-6 rating in Unc. A conditionally rare offering for the Seated Quarter specialist.

Obverse and reverse of a 1841 Breen-3945 Briggs 1-A coin showing the doubled die reverse of the 1841-O. The reverse of the original 1841-O coin was included in the New Orleans Hoard mentioned in Note 2 above.

2197 1841-O Breen-3946, Briggs 2-6, FS-001, Doubled Die Obverse, AU-50 (NGC). This issue was well represented in the New Orleans Hoard with perhaps as many as 200 examples of the present die marriage entering numismatic channels from that source. That said, we direct bidder attention to the present example. This coin does not have the "look" that one would expect for a New Orleans Hoard example; the surfaces being toned in russet-gray shades that yield to cobalt blue tinting in many peripheral areas. The obverse impression is generally sharp, that on the reverse somewhat less so with softness of detail noted over the eagle's neck and left (facing) leg feathers. Scattered abrasions are noted, particularly in the upper reverse field, but the surfaces are problem-free within the context of the AU grade level. A popular issue among early-date type collectors and O-mint specialists alike.

Obverse and reverse of a 1841-O Breen-3946 Briggs 2-6 coin showing the doubled die obverse and stars.

Certified from Mike Viscardi on March 10, 1983.



2198 1842 Breen-3948, Briggs 1-A, Large Date, AU-55 (NGC). In 1842, the Philadelphia Mint produced both Small Date and Large Date coins. Those with the Small Date, however, were only produced solely in Proof format, and today, less than 10 specimens are known. Thus, for the date collector, the Large Date variant is the only reasonable candidate. Still, this variety will prove a challenge in its own right since official documentation asserts that just 88,000 business strikes were produced. Rich charcoal-gray toning envelops both sides, the color appearing to lighten a bit in the open fields. This is an uncommonly sharply struck coin for a Seated Quarter from this era, there being essentially no areas of noteworthy incompleteness of detail. One or two scattered abrasions are noted, but more for accuracy's sake than for any detrimental effect that they may have on the overall eye appeal. It is not often that we handle a minimally circulated survivor of this P-min' delivery, and this originally preserved piece should see spirited bidding.

Ex NGC #401

Ex National Bank of Denver Collection (Bowers and Merena Lot 1106)

2206 1846 Breen-3967. Briggs 2-D. AU-55 (NGC). Lite Gilroyite relatively plentiful 1846 (510,000 pieces produced) becomes scarce in AU and downright rare in Mint State. This minimally worn survivor retains about 50% of the original satin finish with toning of very-gray iridescence. Some brighter undertones are seen at direct angles. Well struck throughout and problem-free despite having spent actual time in commercial avenues.

One Mule Nickel with its represented areas well highlighted by original toning; plenty of blue under blues.
by Larry Brigg

Purchased from Mike Grahame on January 10, 1988.

2207 1847 Breen-3970. Briggs 1-A. Doubled Die Reverse. AU-53 (PCGS). The otherwise greenish-gray features reveal two swirls of cobalt blue toning over the obverse portrait. Partial mint lustre is seen as the surfaces dip in and out of the light, but we are unable to find any discontinuity in tone save for the few small perturbations in the reverse field before an eagle break. The motto "IN GOD WE TRUST" is unusually faint, with its usual lustre in full swing but is typically offhand no more than 5%.

Very fine.

From the Collection of Jim Gray, January 10, 1988.

2208 1847-O Breen-3972. Briggs 1-A. FF-40 (PCGS). A relatively plentiful finding in #1-like gray, just faint mint lustre. The colors suggest due to one year's minting runs unassisted by an auxiliary source. Typically struck in 12 mm numbers with evidence of planchet toning in the upper obverse and lower reverse fields. The date on these Orleans Mint Charter Quarters is 1847 and 1848 reverse mottoes and reverse designs for the 1847-1850 pieces produced in 1847. As might also be noticed here, the reverse date is somewhat offhand (1848) and 1849 date is 1847.

Very fine.

Purchased from Jim Gray, January 10, 1988.

2209 1848 Breen-3974. Briggs 1-A. Doubled Date. AU-55 (NGC). The otherwise greenish-gray and tan-green toning feature brilliant pale-yellow gold around the center of the obverse. Pleasantly original with sharply regional toning both regular and irregular, alternating in a variety of the new shades of brown or tan-greenish discoloration. Secondary and third toning is common, but the primary color is most difficult to locate before reaching the center area.

Final specimen in the Jim Gray Collection. Chartered Quarters, reverse showing the motto of the year.

December 2000.



2210 1849. Breen-3976. Briggs 1-A. MS-61. We learned from the Philadelphia Mint Quarters of the 1840s are intended to Mint Seven in policy manner. Despite mintage numbers that are more or less equated by the standards of the era, most of those issues can really be described as common above the circulated grades. Such is the case with the 1849 (540,000 pieces produced). Any originally toning example (both sides exhibit vivid blue and aqua undertones) looks like a buckshot or medium gray patina. Boldly struck with no discernable abrasions and with the luster a bit more substrate-persistent, about as a higher Mint State grade.

Original reverse, NGC MS-61.

NGC MS-61.

Purchased from D. C. Fenton on January 10, 1988.



2211 1849-O Breen-3977. Briggs 1-A, the only known dies. AU-55 (NGC). The 1849-O is the key to the New Orleans Mint Seated Quarter Series. We do not know exactly how many O-mint Quarters of this date were produced, there being no officially reported mintage figure. Breen (1988) states that six obverse dies were prepared in the Philadelphia Mint's Engraving Department and that these were not destroyed until April 18, 1850. Apparently, one of these 1849-O obverses was combined with a reverse on hand in New Orleans from a previous year to deliver an unknown, although presumably limited number of 1849-O Quarters early in 1850. Hence, it seems likely that this issue's original mintage is buried in the total of 42,000 pieces listed for the 1850-O. Breen further opines that the mintage for the 1849-O may constitute all or part of the New Orleans Mint's initial delivery of 16,000 coins in 1850, although this exact percentage can only be offered as a guess.

While the true circumstances surrounding the production of the 1849-O may never be known, what numismatists can accept without question is the fact that this issue is a prime rarity at all levels of preservation. In fact, at the problem-free Choice AU level the 1849-O is all but undetectable. This is one of the finest examples that the cataloguer has handled, the surfaces displaying mostly even toning gray patina. We have essentially no complaints about the strike and the surfaces, being free of all but a few wispy, well-scattered stains, are also presentable. An important opportunity for the specialist to acquire one of the true "stoppers" in the collectible Seated Quarter Series for 1858-1859.

Original 1849-O mintage piece combining 10 examples of about the 40,000 total.
This includes a probably double-struck, a redactionless, particularly on the obverse, specimen. Double-struck, counterfeited, or forged? No one knows.

Purchased from Mike Grahame on April 21, 1983.



2212 1850 Breen-3979. Briggs 1-A. MS-63 (NGC). Off-center highlights of champagne-gray and lavender-gray patina around the focal devices are framed by intense electric-blue peripheral toning. Both sides are lustrous with a satin-textured finish and striking quality that is still the slightest bit sharper in terms of definition. Although the 1850 (500,000 pieces produced) in large numbers, the mintage figure of 190,800 pieces is not the prime culprit for this issue's high grade rarity in today's market. Rather we can point to the 1848 discovery of gold in California and, thence, to the widespread silver meltings of the early 1850s. Survivors of this P mint delivery are seldom offered in Mint State, such examples having received an R-7 rating from Larry Briggs.

One Side Obverse of this 1850 mintage, remnants of an errant 1 are clearly visible on the reverse far below the first digit in the date.

NGC MS-63. #1 specimen in the Gray Collection.

NGC MS-63.

Purchased from Steve Sauer, Monterey, December 10, 1998.



2213 1850-O Breen-3981 Briggs 1-B. MS-61 (NGC). This is the final pre-1853 O-mint Seated Quarter issue with an original mintage of more than 100,000 coins. While the 1850-O is not in the same rarity class as either the 1851-O or the 1852-O, it is still a conditionally challenging issue that deserves considerable respect in Mint State. This is one of the more sharply struck survivors that this cataloger has seen, although the often-encountered softness of detail over the denticles is noted. Lustrous, satiny surfaces are splashed in irregular russet iridescence. Scattered abrasions seem to account for the grade. A coin whose importance should be obvious to specialists, and one that would do justice to the finest date set of Seated Liberty Quarters.

NCG Census: 2; 13 finer.
PCGS# 5416.

Ex: Stacks, June 20 - 21, 1985, Lot 126

2214 1851 Breen-3983. AU-58 (NGC). Considerable mint luster remains on both sides of this originally toned example. The otherwise copper-gray sheen yields to splashes of cobalt-blue color in select obverse peripheral areas, as well as some iridescent undertones throughout the reverse. Sharp in strike with no mentionable abrasions. As many of the 160,000 Quarters that emerged from the Philadelphia Mint's presses in 1851 were undoubtedly melted for their bullion content, this scarce near-Mint survivor should have little trouble attracting strong bids.

Of this issue, Larry Briggs (1991) states: "Minor varieties surely exist, yet to date no significant die characteristics have been found."

PCGS# 5417.

Purchased from Superior Rasmussen on February 1998



2215 1851-O Breen-3984. Briggs 1-B. AU-55 (NGC). Simply put, this issue is not supposed to exist in grades near or above the Mint State threshold, and particularly not with the awe-inspiring originality and problem-free surfaces of the present example. The 1851-O was produced in limited numbers, the New Orleans Mint probably starting to realize by this year that newly produced Quarters were heading almost exclusively into bullion dealers' hands. In addition there were few, if any people interested in setting aside O-mint Seated Quarters at the time of issue. As such, we are delighted to handle, as well as offer, this richly toned Choice AU survivor. Both sides are equally attractive with rich cobalt-blue peripheral color framing a lavender-gray center on the obverse. On the reverse, one can see softer dove-gray patina with a thin crescent of golden-blue tinting at the denticles. The right peripheral stars on the obverse are a bit softly defined, as befits the issue, but all other features are suitably sharp despite a little highpoint rub. There are not many abrasions, although pedigree concerns compel us to mention a reeding mark in the obverse field between the 85 in the date.

With only two AU-55 examples known to NGC and a mere six finer, this coin is bumping up against Condition Census standing.
PCGS# 5418.

Purchased from Jim Payette on May 6, 1983

2216 1852 Breen-3985, Briggs 2-B. AU-58 (NGC). Warmly patinated in silver-apricot hues, this sharply impressed near-Mint example reveals very little in the way of wear. There are also not many outwardly distracting abrasions, a shallow graze in the right obverse field being noted for accuracy. While Briggs (1991) states that this issue is generally available with patience, we remind bidders that the 1852 (177,060 pieces) is another P-mint Seated Quarter that suffered extensive melting both at the hands of bullion dealers and Mint employees (the latter, no doubt, interested in using the silver for the Arrows coinage of 1853-1855).

PCGS# 5419.



2217 1852-O Breen-3987. Briggs 1-A. AU-58. Although perhaps overshadowed by the 1849-O, the 1852-O is a very rare issue that presents a considerable challenge to specialists. While it is certainly the case that the 1849-O is rarer in terms of total number of coins known, the 1852-O is the more challenging issue to locate in attractive, problem-free condition. This cataloger has handled several problem-free AU and Mint State 1849-O Quarters over the past several years, but certainly no more than three or four 1852-O Quarters in those grades, even when problem examples are included. The "problem" with the 1852-O as an issue, at least as far as collectors are concerned, is fourfold. First, there were 96,000 pieces were produced. In addition, most examples were probably melted shortly after release since their bullion value exceeded their face value. Also, this issue was produced with a rounded, or beveled rim that was unable to protect the coins from heavy wear and/or damage. Finally, there are a few extant '52-O Quarters that would probably grade either AU or Mint State at the major grading services were it not for microscopic granularity to the surfaces that is not unlike that seen on many salvaged coins.

This is a solid AU example in terms of wear, the devices displaying only the lightest highpoint rub. A few of the features toward the upper obverse and lower reverse borders are softly struck, but not excessively so for an O-mint Quarter of this type. The surfaces exhibit an overall bright white lustrous sheen with just a wisp of toning beginning to form at the lower reverse rim. This coin is one of those '52-O Quarters that displays a microscopically granular texture, this feature being essentially confined to the obverse. While not problem-free, the important example presents relatively well and would make an important addition to a specialized collection of Seated coinage.

The reverse of this Briggs 1-A candidate is the same that the New Orleans Mint used to strike 1851-O Breen-3984 quarters. It is conceivable that the present AU-58 specimen is the original through the great shift.

PCGS# 5420.



2218 1853 Breen-3988. Briggs 1-A. the only known dies. No Arrows. AU-55 (NGC). A well-known rarity among Philadelphia Mint Quarters of the Seated type, the 1853 No Arrows was produced to the extent of just 44,200 pieces. This entire mintage was achieved in two deliveries: 20,800 pieces of February 7 and 23,400 coins of February 19. Two days after the latter batch was produced, Congress passed the Mint Act of February 21, 1853 which lowered the weight of the Quarter from 6.68 grams to 6.22 grams in order to discourage hoarding and allow the coin to circulate. We believe as do most numismatic scholars, that many of 1853 No Arrow Quarters were melted before they had even left the Mint, thus being used to strike the new lighter weight silver coins. While some Mint State 1853 No Arrow Quarters appear obtainable by Harold P. Nevelin toward the end of the 19th century, the issue remains scarce among all levels of preservation, and is exceedingly difficult to find in finer grades.

Fully original, this example is found in AU-55. Deep charcoal tones that yield sophisticated color tones, certain to command the highest. Warm olive gray patina blends to the corners and some pale goldish highlights dominate certain areas. The obverse design is particularly clear, with the profile of Liberty facing right, slightly off-center. The reverse, Arrows and Ray, has excellent edge appearance, although it is very faint.

Briggs (1991) lists 1853 No Arrows as "scarce" and "difficult to find." The author's opinion is that this coin is "rare" and "extremely difficult to find."

2219 1853 Breen-3989. Arrows and Rays. AU-58 (NGC). A unique popular pattern type, this pattern consists of deeply indented circles with raised borders of raised lobulated and incuse points radiating to the borders. Sharp detail with no traces from the apparently number of wrong combination strikes for the grade.

Briggs (1991) lists 1853 Arrows and Rays as "scarce."



2220 1853-O Breen-3992. Briggs 1 Die State-B. Arrows and Rays. AU-58 (PCGS). In our opinion, this is one of the *absolute* scarcities in the entire Seated Quarter series of 1838-1891. The 1853-O is the only branch mint type of the Arrows and Rays design, making it a major rare coin type branch mint type collector. Furthermore, the original mintage of 1.5 million coins is significantly less than that of the 1853 Arrows and Rays with the result that the 1853-O is considerably more challenging to locate in the choice AU-Mint State grade range. Fully original with rich, deep charcoal gray toning, both sides also reveal golden blue undertones at more direct angles. One can also see thickets of minuscules as the coin dips into a light, but mentionable abrasions are not evident. Worthily of a strong bid.

2221 1854 Breen-3994. Arrows. AU-58 (PCGS). Near-Mint type collectors would be wise to take full advantage of the opportunity that this originally toned example represents. Blue-gray and antique gold colors compete for dominance on both sides. Crisply impressed with minimal abrasions for the grade and a few spindly die cracks (one strikingly connecting some of the peripheral devices).

Briggs (1991)
PCGS #14

Lot 15 - Stokes October 16, 1991 (996) Lot 241

2222 1854-O Breen-3997. Arrows. AU-58 (NGC). Both sides are bathed in warm golden-toned patina with blushes of mint luster peaking from the protected areas around the devices. The latter feature is most readily evident under a light, but all angles reveal bold, if not sharp striking definition. Wisp abrasions are noted, but none are worthy of undue concern. The 1854-O (1.4 million pieces produced) is the only easily obtainable O-mint issue of the 1854-1855 Arrows type, but it is still scarce with minimally worn, problem-free surfaces.

The only arrows type presented in previous editions in Briggs (1991) Seated Quarter
series. The date and mintmark are New Orleans Mint (1854-O) and the
obverse is Obverse 1A, Arrows and Rays, and Reverse 1B, Seated Liberty.

Briggs (1991)

Purchased from Jim Patterson (Chicago, IL)

2223 1855 Breen-4003. Arrows. AU-58 (NGC). Vivid electric blue mid-tones overlast the peripheries in a mottled fashion, the colors being particularly evident on the obverse. The balance of the surface is preserved surfaces are toning in dove-gray patina with some reddish-champagne undertones on the obverse. A crisply defined, problem-free coin for the Choice AU-type collector.

Briggs (1991)

Lot 100 - Stokes April Fine Show (1980)



2224 1855-O Breen-4004. Briggs 1-A. Arrows. AU-50 (NGC). Quarter production at the New Orleans Mint fell off markedly in 1855, the total being a mere 176,000 pieces. Apparently, the Louisiana facility had its hands full striking Half Dimes (600,000 coins) and, particularly, Half Dollars (3.6 million pieces) that year. Not only is the 1855-O Arrows Quarter elusive in all grades, but it is a very difficult issue to locate with any degree of striking sharpness. The present example is above average in definition in that the lower obverse dentates are distinct and the O mintmark is full. Nonetheless, the overall impression is somewhat soft, but the wear is light and largely confined to the highpoints. Golden tinged with several mint luster and the usual number of wisp abrasions for an example that sits 10 points of circulation. Briggs (1991) assigns this issue an R-6 rating in EF/AU grades.

Briggs (1991)



2225 1855-S Breen-4005, Briggs 1-A, Arrows, AU-58 (NGC). Rich, original, copper-gray toning envelops both sides of this well produced example. The otherwise sharp strike wanes only minimally over a few of the obverse star centrals and the eagle's left (facing) leg feathers on the reverse. Uncommonly free of outwardly distracting abrasions for a circulated survivor of this issue.

The San Francisco Mint inaugurated production of silver coinage in 1855 with a delivery of 396,400 Quarters and 129,950 Halves. The '55-S Quarter is the only S-mint issue of the Arrows, No Motto type, and it is quite challenging to locate in problem-free AU. Briggs (1991) states that most "were well circulated and mishandled amongst the mining communities." Also, we are not aware of any numismatists that were active in the San Francisco area in the mid-1850s. It stands to reason, therefore, that extant high quality '55-S Arrows Quarters have survived purely by chance.

NGC Census: 2; with a mere five Mint State coins finer.

PCGS# 5437.

2226 1856 Breen-4006, AU-58 (NGC). The focal features are crisply impressed, and both sides are toned in delicate tan-russet iridescence that is more extensive on the reverse. In fact, the central obverse is essentially untoned. There are no abrasions that are worthy of individual mention. Although the Mint dropped the arrows from the lower obverse field of the Seated Quarter in 1856, production at Philadelphia (and New Orleans, to a lesser extent) remained strong through the end of the 1850s because the federal government was still trying to replace the old tenor coinage of the pre-Arrows deliveries.

PCGS# 5438.

Purchased from Mike Graham on April 23, 1983

2227 1856-O Breen-4008, Briggs 5-D, AU-53 (NGC). This richly toned, dove-gray representative is overall sharp in strike—an uncommon feature for a Seated Quarter from this branch mint. Problem-free for the grade, and conditionally scarce. Despite a sizeable original mintage of nearly 1 million coins, the 1856-O is typically offered in grades no finer than EF.

PCGS# 5439.



2228 1856-S Breen-4009, Briggs 1-B, AU-58 (PCGS). This is one of the finest 1856-S Quarters that we have ever handled, and it is also probably among the finest coins extant. The frosty mint luster is virtually intact with swirling cartwheel effects radiating through light tan-gray iridescence. Both sides are sharply struck, although we note that the S mintmark appears to have been lightly impressed into the die. There is not a single noteworthy abrasion on either side. The 1856-S was produced to the extent of 286,000 pieces, most of which have been lost to circulation. Perhaps not surprisingly, the rarity of this issue increases substantially with grade. AU survivors such as this almost certainly merit at least a High R.5 rating.

PCGS Population: 34 finer.

PCGS# 5440.

Ex: Mid American, 1985, Lot 319

2229 1857 Breen-4011, MS-61 (NGC). With a lustrous, satiny sheen and original, mortled, cobalt-russet toning around the peripheries, this coin would make an attractive addition to a Mint State type set. The number of moderate size abrasions is minimal for the designated grade, and the strike is razor sharp throughout.

PCGS# 5442.

Purchased from Mike Graham on October 21, 1983

2230 1857-O Breen-4012, Briggs 1-A, AU-58 (NGC). Some light steel-gray patina has gathered over both sides of this typically impressed O-mint Quarter. Actually, most features are suitably sharp in detail, but we do note some bluntness of strike on the reverse over the lower left eagle and in the corresponding area on the obverse. Nevertheless, this minimally rubbed and not overly abraded (for the grade) coin is an uncommonly high grade survivor of this otherwise readily obtainable New Orleans Mint Quarter.

PCGS# 5443.



2231 1857-S Breen-4013, Briggs 2-C, Large S, AU-58 (NGC). Continuing the trend of conditionally challenging San Francisco Mint Quarters from the 1850s is the 1857-S. With an original mintage of 82,000 coins, the '57-S is rarer than the preceding two deliveries from this branch mint. An exceptionally well cared for example, both the obverse and the reverse are lustrous with a vibrant, softly frosted sheen. Delicately patinated in mortled champagne-gray iridescence, all features are possessed of needle sharp striking detail. None of the scattered abrasions are sizeable or individually distracting. Another important offering from this spectacular collection of Seated Liberty coinage.

The S mintmark is high and virtually embedded in both the obverse and reverse branch of this die marriage. We suspect that Breen 1018, the 1857-S Medium S does not exist and the example that the author receives (S#1017) was actually a mintage of large S coins.

PCGS# 5444.

Ex: National Bank of Denver Collection (Bowers and Merena), Lot 2483

2232 1858-Breen-4015, AU-58 (NGC). The otherwise silver-gray patina yields to more vivid apricot-orange iridescence around many of the devices and over the upper obverse. Overall sharp in strike with scattered powder-blue undertones also evident at more direct angles.

PCGS# 5445.

2233 1858-O Breen-4016, Briggs 1-A, AU-53 (NGC). Fully original with a richly toned sheen, the otherwise lavender-gray surfaces are splashed in blue tinting in several peripheral areas. Briggs 1-A is the more sharply struck of the two known die marriages of the 1858-O Quarter, and this coin is generally boldly detailed over all features save for the lower obverse and upper reverse dentils. Singularly reportable abrasions are conspicuously absent above. This issue is certainly not among the rarest O-mint deliveries in this series, but we stress that AU survivors are seldom encountered in today's market.

PCGS# 5446.

Purchased from Bowers on May 6, 1983



2234 1858-S Breen-4017. Briggs 2-B, AU-50 (NGC). This super-gray example is undeniably original with plenty of bold-as-sharp definition remaining from an obviously crisp impression. Minimally abraded, problem-free survivors of this early S mint Quarter are few, though not common in today's hobby, particularly in grades at or above the AU level. One of just 121,000 pieces produced, few of which did not succumb to commercial wear.

Purchased from Normie Padden

2235 1859-Breen-4018. Briggs 5-D, Type I Obverse / Type I Reverse, AU-58 (NGC). Originality is a hallmark of this coin, although otherwise it has gray surfaces revealing strikingly sharp obverse and olive-green reverse colors over and above. This is a sharply struck example from type I mintage but the nearby Mint State specimen is better.

Purchased from Normie Padden

2236 1859-O Breen-4022. Briggs 1-A, AU-58 (NGC). From Edelman Mint Quarter production (500,000 coins) in 1859, this is a widely sought after date, grade, and mint mark combination. This is a choice example from 1859-O mintage, a somewhat lighter gray than most others, with a few minor abrasions on the reverse. Well preserved for its date, grade, and mint.

Purchased from Normie Padden



2237 1859-S Breen-4023. Briggs 1-A, the only known dies, EF-40 (NGC). The obverse displays strong, even, sharp strike and deep grey-blue-gray shades on the reverse. This is a well-struck coin with only some very light minor wear on the obverse. There are a few small abrasions, one visible on the obverse field below the date, but otherwise an amazingly problem-free mint specimen. This die variety contained more internal damage for the 300,000 coins in 1859-O mint quarter planchet than did the die variety found at other mints & North Carolina date and mint.

Purchased from Normie Padden

2238 1860-Breen-4024. Briggs 4-D, Type II Obverse / Type I Reverse, AU-58 (NGC). This obverse representation is free of bold, boisterous striking incompletions and outwardly distracting abrasions. Although Breen (1988) opines that this hub variety is "ex ante," Briggs (1991) states that the Type 2 reverse varieties are "better" than Type 1 varieties by at least 50% (arguably). A pleasing type candidate from a respectable original mintage of 805,400 pieces.

Purchased from Normie Padden

2239 1860-O Breen-4026. Briggs 1-A, AU-58 (NGC). Ample remnants of a satiny finish as evident on the surfaces shimmering slightly as the coin dips in and out of a light. Both sides are toned to olive-gray shades with deeper steel-gray overtones throughout much of the obverse design. The few scattered abrasions are not inconsistent with the grade. The New Orleans Mint delivered its final Quarters in 1860 before the onset of the Civil War forced a halt in production that lasted until 1891. While the 60-O (\$388,000 pieces produced) is anything but rare in an absolute sense, it is as conditionally scarce in AU-58 as one should expect for an O-mint issue in this series.

Purchased from Normie Padden

1860-S Seated Liberty Quarter Rarity The Only Mint State Example Certified at NGC and PCGS



2240 1860-S Breen-4028. Briggs 1-A, the only known dies, MS-61 (NGC). This is one of the rarest coins in this sale. The surfaces are mostly frosted with a mostly even overlay of golden-gray patina. All focal features are sharply struck, and both sides, while not abrasion-free, appear uncommonly smooth for the designated grade. Two tiny ticks in the obverse field before Liberty's toe are mentioned solely for pedigree purposes.

The 1860-S (60,000 pieces produced) is virtually impossible to obtain in Mint State preservation. In fact, the example offered here is one of, if not the finest known, and it is at the top of the Condition Census ranking. Augustus Heaton recognized this as a scarce date in his groundbreaking 1893 book Mint Marks. More than a century later, the 1860-S quarter dollar is still recognized as a rarity. Larry Briggs conducted a survey among members of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club that established the 1860-S and 1872-S as the rarest S-mint Seated Quarters. James Gray, in a 1990 article in his classic publication, labeled the 1860-S as the most underrated Seated Quarter issues, a significant statement given the competition.

Purchased from Normie Padden

PCGS MS-61

2241 1861 Breen-4030. Type II Reverse, MS-60. Free of wear, this coin is pleasingly lustrous with faint, yet discernible cartwheel visual effects. Both sides are toned in iridescent champagne-apricot and blue-blue hues with a few milky swirls here and there. The position of the eagle's left (facing) talons relative to the olive branch confirms the Type II Reverse hub variety. However, the eagle's eye appears somewhat as seen on the Type I Reverse. Closer inspection with a loupe reveals that the eagle's eye may have been modified in an attempt to simulate the scarcer Type I Reverse. There is also a bit of residue over the coin in that area, making it difficult for us to see the most minute detail of the eye. A coin that should be viewed prior to bidding.

Purchased from Normie Padden

Purchased from Charlotte Coin & Gold on January 13, 1981



2242 1861-S Breen-4031. Briggs 1-A. AU-50 (NGC). Presently unknown in Mint State, the 1861-S (96,000 pieces produced) is rated R.6 in EF-AU by Larry Briggs in his 1991 Seated Quarter reference. One of only eight survivors certified in the various grades of About Uncirculated by NGC and PCGS, this otherwise silver-gray coin displays richer olive-russet outlines to many of the devices. Some of the original luster remains, this despite light highpoint rub and a smattering of mostly wispy abrasions. An uncommonly problem-free representative, and one of several highlights among the S-mint Seated Quarters in this collection.

PCGS# 5455.

Ex: Stack's, June 20 - 21, 1985, Lot 132

2243 1862 Breen-4032. Briggs 3-C. AU-50 (NGC). In response to the growing conflict between North and South, New York banks suspended specie payments in December 1861. This action came too late to adversely effect the Philadelphia Mint's production of 1861-dated Quarters, but it did limit P-mint Quarter deliveries through the end of the Civil War. The 1862 has a reported business strike mintage of 932,000 pieces, a total that is substantially less than of 4.8 million coins for the 1861. An originally toned survivor of the former issue, the otherwise silver-gray features are splashed in olive-russet patina that is most readily evident around the obverse periphery. Sharply struck with remnants of original luster and only a few scattered abrasions.

PCGS# 5456.

Purchased from Stack's on May 26, 1983



2244 1862-S Breen-4033. Briggs 2-A. AU-58 (PCGS). While the December 28, 1861 suspension of specie payments drove silver coins out of circulation in the East, such pieces remained in use in the western United States. As such, the San Francisco Mint continued to strike Seated Quarters through the mid 1870s to meet local demand. This demand, of course, required most of the 67,000 S-mint examples delivered in 1862 to spend many years in circulation. Few coins escaped this fate, one of which is this gorgeously toned specimen. Retrieved from the avenues of commerce after acquiring only light highpoint rub and some wispy abrasions, the features are mostly lustrous with overall sharp delineation. Richly patinated with mottled olive-orange highlights over a base of medium gray color. One of the finest 62-S Quarters that we can remember handling.

There appears to be only one reverse die. In the 1862-S Quarter set, a die was used that connects S mintmark to the arrow (arrow).

PCGS Population: 4; 9 finds.

PCGS# 5457.

Ex: Stack's, June 16 - 18, 1987, Lot 530

2245 1863 Breen-4034. Briggs 4-D (?), EF-45 (PCGS). Rich charcoal-gray toning envelops both sides of this obviously original example. The devices retain plenty of sharp striking detail despite having seen 15 points of circulation. Clashmarks (as made) are noted in the fields, but there are no abrasions that are worthy of singular mention. From a limited original mintage of 192,060 pieces.

A word regarding the die diagnostics of this coin is perhaps in order. The Breen-4036 variety is described as having a doubled legend on the reverse. Breen 4035, the other variety, states that the author lists for the business strike of issue, is doubled on the obverse date and reverse legend. The present example does not correspond to either of these varieties. On the other hand, Breen does list # 4034, the 1863 with normal date, and legend. This die marriage is supposed to be for proofs only, meaning that it would correspond to Briggs 4-D. The position of the 'I' in the date relative to the shield point and light incuse on the QL in QU AR would seem to suggest that this coin is an example of Briggs 4-D. It is clear a business strike (the clashmarks would be highly unusual for a carefully produced proof), nonetheless, so perhaps the Mint used the 1863 proof Quarter dies to strike some coins in circulation after preparing the specimen proofs. We would like to hear from anyone who may have more information regarding the die characteristics of both the proof and business strike 1863 Quarters.

PCGS# 5458.

Ex: Stack's, June 10, 1983



2246 1864 Breen-4037. Briggs 1-A. MS-62 (NGC). P-mint Quarter production continued to fall through 1864 to a mere 36,070 pieces emerging from the dies. An important survivor of the business strike delivery, this frosty example is overlaid in scintillating golden iridescence. Crisply delineated over all features with only a few tiny abrasions seeming to account for the BU designation. Many Mint State 1864 Quarters are of the Briggs 1-A die marriage, but such coins are offered more infrequently than similarly dated pieces. An important bidding opportunity.

PCGS# 5459.

Ex: Stack's, June 19 - 20, 1991, Lot 298



2247 1864-S Breen-4038. Briggs 1-A. EF-45 (NGC). An issue that is immediately recognizable among specialists, the 1864-S is unfortunately rare at all levels of presentation. Even well worn (EF/GF) coins have received an R-4 rating from Larry Briggs, with those grading EF-AU rated High R-6. Fortunately for interested bidders, this coin is not only minimally worn, but the surface area is essentially problem free for the grade. Light overall rub is noted, the devices retaining plenty of bold-to-sharp striking detail. The scattered abrasions include one or two shallow obverse grazes that we mention solely for accuracy. All in all, the eye appeal is strong for the choice EF designation. This coin's paltry original mintage of 70,000 pieces only partially explains its rarity, for heavy commercial use must also be mentioned.

PCGS# 5460.

Ex: Douglass Weare, Lot 7985

2248 1865 Breen-4040, Briggs 1-A, AU-50 (NGC). Warm reddish gray toning overlays the reverse, the obverse exhibiting somewhat darker lavender charcoal and sea-green hues. Both sides are equally original with overall sharp definition and no mentionable detractions. Only 59,300 Quarters were produced in the Philadelphia Mint in 1865, and business strikes are elusive at all levels of preservation.

PCGS SP65

E.C. Cunliffe Galleries, May 1st, 1983

2249 1865-S Breen-4041, Briggs 1-Die State-A, AU-55 (NGC). Predominantly lustrous with a satiny-to-silky muted sheen, this coin is lightly patinated or golden iridescence. Scattered abrasions are noted, but all are soft in texture and individually inconsequential. Produced in slightly greater numbers than the 1865-S, the 1865-S (141,000 pieces) delivered a very similar reverse to the preceding S mint Quarters. Note especially the "W" on the eagle's tail wing, which mimics the previous first example, faint grading on this from '65.

PCGS SP65

Laurel Auctions, July 2008

2250 1866 Breen-4046, Briggs 1-A, Motto, MS-63 (PCGS). The numerous errors that plagued the 1865 series in response to the initial blundering of the Civil War prompted Congress to mandate the addition of the motto "IN GOD WE TRUST" to the Seated Quarter. This Obverse and Reverse Minted the following year this addition was almost forgotten. In 1867, however, the next Minted examples were again informed by committee until the following year. The present coin is one of only 10,300 known, mostly pristine, and is a superbly finished piece presented in a superb quality of issue order example in PCGS. The reverse is more luminous, the otherwise muted tones adding to its unique character. Surface irregularities appear, some slightly apparent, and others are fine, discrete artifacts common to the low mintage and/or relatively short strike count. The obverse is largely blank, as is the reverse, overall features are fine for the late angle. The toning, some of which can be seen on numerous surfaces of this issue, is key for the collector who appreciates further toning, technical quality, and individuality in originality.

PCGS Population: 2 known coins.

PCGS SP65

Bowers and Merena, July 11, 1990

2251 1866-S Breen-4047, Briggs 1-A, the only known dies, EF-45 (NGC). Another S mint Seated Quarter that is not encountered with any regularity in today's market, the 1866-S has an original mintage of just 28,000 pieces. This is a high grade survivor by the standards of this issue, both sides displaying even dove-gray patina that assumes a slightly brighter appearance at more direct angles. Overall light in wear with the expected number of mostly small abrasions. A problem-free representative that is sure to see spirited bidding.

NGC Census: 0 with 3 mint five dies.

PCGS SP65

E.C. Cunliffe Galleries, October 1983

2252 1867 Breen-4048, Briggs 1-A, EF-45 (PCGS). This is an elusive issue from a mintage of just 20,000 coins. While a few Mint State examples have been certified, the reality of today's market today is that a nice EF example as offered here represents an important opportunity for the date collector. Well blended steel-gray surfaces envelop bold, lightly worn features. Direct angles call forth isolated swirls of cobalt-blue tinting, but the surfaces display a problem-free (for the grade) appearance even under close scrutiny with a lamp.

PCGS SP65

Bowers and Merena, June 2000

2253 1867-S Breen-4049, Briggs 1-A, the only known dies, AU-55. Scattered hairlines suggest an old cleaning; the surfaces having received an unattractive apricot and silver gray iridescence. While not problem free, this sharply defined survivor presents relatively well with no sizeable abrasions. Among early Motto Quarters from the San Francisco Mint, the 1867-S (48,000 pieces produced) is more available than the 1866-S, but rarer than the 1868-S.

PCGS Population: 1 known with the 1866-S Seated Quarter.

PCGS SP65

E.C. Cunliffe Galleries, October 1983

2254 1868 Breen-4050, Briggs 1-A, AU-53 (NGC). The silver-gray surfaces are partially lustrous with sharp definition in virtually all areas. This is an originally preserved survivor of this low mintage (30,000 pieces) issue with no individually distracting abrasions.

PCGS SP65



2255 1868-S Breen-4051, Briggs 1-A. AU-58 (NGC). By the time the majority of numismatists took notice of this issue, most of the 96,000 pieces produced had passed into history alongside the frontier upon which they saw commercial use. The present example is certainly one of the few survivors that retains most or all of the original finish. The texture is satiny in sheen, and the virtually untoned centers are framed by warm champagne, gold, and cobalt-blue shadings. The striking detail is sharp throughout, and there is a noteworthy lack of distracting abrasions on both sides.

NGC Census: 3; 10 finer.

PCGS# 5473.

Purchased from Mike Graham on October 28, 1983



2256 1869 Breen-4052, Briggs 1-A. VF-35 (NGC). The tradition of low mintages continued in 1869 with just 16,000 business strike Quarter Dollars produced in Philadelphia. This mid-grade representative is overlaid in warm slate-gray patina. The wear is light-to-moderate with an even distribution and no individually conspicuous circulation marks.

PCGS# 5474.

Purchased from Jack Beymer on August 15, 1983



2257 1869-S Breen-4053, Briggs 1 Die State-A, the only known dies. AU-58 (PCGS). This is the finest quality that most collectors will have the opportunity to bid on for an 1869-S Quarter. Overlapping swirls of slate-gray and dove-gray patina adorn both sides. The striking detail is sufficiently sharp with crisp delineation over the focal features. The peripheries, as should be expected for the issue, are a bit more softly impressed. The bisecting crack (as struck) through the upper obverse confirms the late die state. The surfaces appear as smooth with nary a distracting abrasion to report. One of the finest survivors of this 76,000-coin delivery known to PCGS.

Although not used in the production of 1868-S Quarters, the reverse die of the 1869-S is the same that the Mint used to deliver 1866-S and 1867-S examples. It is most readily identifiable by the presence of a die scratch within the lower loop of the mintmark.

PCGS Population: 2; 5 finer.

PCGS# 5475.

Purchased from Roy Ashe on August 28, 1987

2258 1870 Breen-4054, Briggs 1-A. EF-40 (NGC). Although the Civil War ended in 1865, specie payments remained suspended through the early years of the following decade, thereby keeping Pennsylvania Quarter production low in 1870. A lightly circulated survivor of the 86,400-piece business strike delivery, this EF coin displays silver-gray patina over moderately abraded features. Remnants of original luster are seen on the coin dips into a light.

This is an interesting issue in that, while the proofs were struck from a lightly rusted reverse die, the business strikes exhibit heavy obverse die rust on Liberty's portrait. PCGS# 5476.

Purchased from Jim Payette on October 8, 1983

Fabled 1870-CC Seated Liberty Quarter

Impressive and Problem-Free Choice EF Quality



2259 1870-CC Breen-4055, Briggs 1-A, the only known dies. EF-45 (PCGS). A date that needs no introduction among specialists, the historically significant 1870-CC is the premier U.S. Quarter delivery achieved in Nevada's Carson City Mint. The facility commenced coining operations that year, although a paltry total of just 8,340 pieces is all that it managed to achieve in Quarters. Whereas a decent number of 1870-CC Seated Dollars appear to have been saved as the first of their kind, the same thing did not happen in the case of the "70-CC Quarter. Today the latter issue is one of the rarest in the entire Seated Liberty series with examples seldom appearing for auction at any level of preservation. You can imagine our delight at being able to offer a Choice EF representative in this sale.

As an issue, the 1870-CC suffers from a production problem that does not plague many other deliveries in the Seated Quarter series. Rather than follow the accepted annealing process to prepare planchets of 90% silver and 10% copper, the staff in Carson City decided to use pure silver from the nearby Comstock Lode. The resulting coins proved far less durable than, for example, 1870-dated examples from the Philadelphia Mint. The CC-mint pieces not only wore down more quickly but proved quite susceptible to corrosion. When offered at all, therefore, the 1870-CC is apt to be in well worn condition with problems of some sort.

That said, we would like to focus bidder attention on the present example. The level of surface preservation is truly remarkable for the issue, both sides exhibiting a relatively smooth sheen with no corrosion or singularly mentionable abrasions. In fact, there are not all that many circulation marks of any size, and the eye appeal further benefits from an even endowment of steel-gray patina. The central design elements are sufficiently sharp, the peripheral features also being essentially so with the exception of some trivial bluntness of detail over the obverse star centrals. The keen interest that many Seated Quarter and CC-mint specialists show in tracing the pedigree of extant "70-CC Quarters compels us to mention a tiny obverse scrape at Liberty's left (facing) elbow. Certainly among the highlights of the extensive offerings of Seated coinage in this sale,

There is only one known die marriage for the 1870-CC Quarter. All genuine examples displaying a small, widely spaced CC mintmark and an as made die scratch within the F in OH. If a reverse die was retained it is used to deliver all known 1871-CC, 1872-CC, and 1873-CC Arrows Quarters.

PCGS Population: 4, with a lone AU-55 example certified finer.
PCGS# 5477

2260 1871 Breen-4056, Briggs 5-C, AU-53 (NGC). This is an original mintage of 119,160 pieces, while certainly limited, is actually among the more generous for the era. Nevertheless, this is a classic as a business strike with Briggs (1991) suggesting that most coins may have been melted at 1873. The original luster, "old silver" example is sharply defined with light highpoints and a few scattered grazes.

From the *Briggs*



2261 1871 CC Breen-4059, Briggs 1-A, the only known dies. EF-45. Light cabinet tone, and the surface has since turned to a brownish-grey color. There are a few areas of very fine hairline luster and abrasions visible on the reverse. Both sides show a well struck mule with only light wear and no considerable abrasion. The mule is a mule to the San Francisco Mint die. MS-62 dies have one original mule, the 1870-CC specimen, a bit more weighty. The date of the 1870-CC die is also kept by the mule, which clearly shows depicting both sides and repeated features. All the original mules are either EF-45 or MS-62. Seldom Offered and Considered the Finest Known.

From the *Briggs*

From the *Briggs* Collection, 1871 CC Breen-4059



2262 1871-S Breen-4058, Briggs 1-A, the only known dies. EF-45 (MS-61). Approximately Mint State Date. San Francisco Mint die. In Cabinet or VF+. Date extremely rare, this issue <20,000 pieces mintage is very low making it almost 100% chance that you would find another die. Both halves highlight only 2% of the entire obverse or reverse medallion elements. No luster and remains a fine later percentage of mint luster on the reverse. As small, this coin is reasonably well for its grade and is one of about twenty total. Although the 1871-S is in the middle of an equally short U.S. coin collection, specimen mule dies are frequently offered in MS-60 level.

From the *Briggs*

From the *Briggs* Collection, 1871-S Breen-4058

2263 1872 Breen-4060, Briggs 2-B, AU-55 (NGC). Like the 1871, the 1872 is truly challenging to locate from its typical mintage of eight milled. The date bands in mostly mules, particularly on the reverse, with the obverse displaying muted luster scars and minor surface abrasions. Well struck in most areas with no major mule strikes.

From the *Briggs*

From the *Briggs*

Key Date 1872-CC Quarter Choice EF Grade at NGC



2264 1872-CC Breen-4062, Briggs 1-A, the only known dies. EF-45 (NGC). The olive-gray toning that envelops both sides is a bit lighter in tone on the reverse than on the obverse. Both sides are equally distractible with them actually being not outwardly better/worn abrasives. Overall light wear is noted, but the focal areas are surfaces in bold. The 1872-CC C is plagued by the same striking problems (pink Comstock silver) noted above on the 1870-CC, as are the 1871-C and 1873-CC issues. It should come as no surprise, therefore, that circulated 1872-CC Quarters are elusive to graders in AG-VG-VF grades and downright rare in both EF and MS. This is one of the most technically and visually appealing U.S. Quarters that we have handled in recent memory.

From the *Briggs* Collection, 1872-CC Breen-4062

From the *Briggs*



2266 1873 Breen-4063, Briggs 3-B. No Arrows. Closed 3. AU-50 (NGC). A limited original mintage of 40,600 pieces does not even begin to explain the rarity of business strike 1873 No Arrows, Closed 3 Quarters. This is an extensively melted issue with even the lowest grade survivors meriting an R.5 rating from Larry Briggs. This important AU representative is toned in lavender-gray shades that assume a somewhat olive-gray color on the reverse. The striking definition is sharp, and the wear is light. Problem-free for the grade, and sure to bring out the aggressiveness in many bidders.

One of only five examples certified at all grade levels by NGC.

PCGS# 5484.

2267 1873 Breen-4064, Briggs 1-A. No Arrows. Open 3. AU-50 (NGC). Gorgeous album toning overlays both sides with gold, blue, and lilac-gray colors moving from the rims to the centers. With only light highpoint rub and no circulation marks of note, this coin possesses uncommonly strong eye appeal for the AU-50 level. Although not as rare as its similarly dated Closed 3 counterpart, the 1873 No Arrows, Open 3 is more challenging to locate than an original mintage of 172,000 pieces might suggest, once again attesting to the fact that many examples most certainly never left the Mint.

PCGS# 5485.

Ex: Harmer Rook Numismatist, Lot 376

2268 1873 Breen-4066. Arrows. AU-58 (NGC). As the premier P-mint issue in the Arrows, Moto Seated Quarter series, the 1873 is a perennially popular issue among type collectors. This virtually fully lustrous example is frosty in sheen with delicate golden iridescence. Sharply struck throughout, and free of all but a few wispy, well scattered abrasions.

PCGS# 5491.

Ex: Stack's, June 20 - 21, 1985, Lot 492



2269 1873-CC Breen-4069, Briggs 1-A, the only known dies. Arrows. EF-45. The absence of an 1874-CC Quarter delivery means that the 1873-CC is the only Carson City Mint issue of this two-year type. It is also a rare issue, the original mintage being just 12,462 pieces. This particular example is free of the planchet problems that often plague survivors of the 1870-1873 CC-mint silver issues, but there are some scattered hairlines. Regardless, both sides present relatively well with golden-gray patination and only a single obverse scrape after star 13 that is worthy of individual mention.

PCGS# 5492.

Ex: Murray, Swope, Young, and Van Ormer Collections (Bowers and Merena, September 1985) Lot 1957

2270 1873-S Breen-4067, Briggs 2-B. Arrows. AU-58 (NGC). Although the 2004 Guide Book prices both issues identically in circulated grades, the 1873-S (156,000 pieces produced) is about twice as rare as the 1874-S. Shimmering, satin luster is seen over smartly impressed features, this despite a little light rub. Delicate champagne iridescence yields to a blush of olive-copper patina at the lower obverse border. Uncommonly abrasion-free for an example that saw actual use in commerce, and worthy of a competitive bid.

PCGS# 5493.

Ex: Stack's, February 10 - 13, Lot 1375

2271 1874 Breen-4070, Briggs 4-C. Arrows. AU-53 (NGC). Richly and originally toned, this otherwise steel-gray example assumes a copper-gray tint in much of the reverse field. A sharp, minimally abraded representative for the AU quality type collector.

PCGS# 5494.

Purchased from Larry Whitlow

2272 1874-S Breen-4071, Briggs 3-A. Arrows. EF-45 (NGC). The 1874-S is perhaps the most frequently selected Arrows. Motto Seated Quarter among branch mint type collectors. This original, lilac-gray representative is solidly graded at the EF level with no noteworthy handling marks.

PCGS# 5495.

Purchased from Jim Payne on May 10, 1983

2273 1875 Breen-4073, Briggs 2-B. Type II Reverse. AU-58 (NGC). The No Arrows, Moto Seated Quarter design resumed in 1875, the Mint also introducing a new reverse hub with the letters in STATES noticeably separated at their bases. An even endowment of rich copper-gray toning blankets both sides of this sharp, nearly wear-free example. There are no distracting abrasions visible to the naked eye.

PCGS# 5498.

Ex: Cain Galleries, August 19, 1985, Lot 175

2274 1875-CC Breen-4079, Briggs 1-A. EF-45 (NGC). The 1875-CC tends to be overlooked by collectors who are fixated on the 1870-1873 issues from this branch mint, but it is a surprisingly scarce coin with an original mintage of just 100,000 pieces. Originally toned in rich charcoal gray shades, the present example displays problem-free, Choice EF surfaces and overall light rubs.

PCGS# 5496.

Purchased from Tim Jefferson on April 25, 1983

2275 1875-S Breen-4075, Briggs 2-B. Type I Reverse. AU-53 (NGC). This toned, olive-gray example survived a short stint in circulation without acquiring any abrasions of note. Plenty of definition remains from an overall sharp strike from the dies. The scarcity of this issue in all grades has led Larry Beigge (1990) to question the validity of the 680,000-piece mintage reported in official documents.

PCGS# 5499.

Purchased from Norman Balcer

2276 1876 Breen-4082. Type II Reverse. AU-58 (NGC). Blusher of reddish-orange, gold, and powder blue tinting accent the otherwise slate-gray surfaces. There are no mentionable post-production distractions, but a loupe reveals die cracks (as struck) encircling much of the peripheries on both sides. We wholeheartedly recommend the 1876 to type collectors who desire just a single represent of the 1838-1891 Seated Quarter type.

PCGS# 5501.

Ex: Cain Galleries, August 16, 1983, Lot 1726

2277 1876-CC Breen-4090, Type II Reverse, Small CC, EF-40 (NGC). Dusky lavender-gray toning blankets devices that are overall sharp in detail despite having seen 20 points of circulation. A problem-free EF representative of CC-mint Quarter production.

PCGS 4090

Purchased from Jon Peterson, May 10, 1983

2278 1876-S Breen-4086, Type II Reverse, Tall S, MS-62 (NGC). Solide within the Mint State grade range this frosty golden-toned example reveals swirling carnelian-luster effects as the coin rotates under a light. Sharply struck over all devices save for a few of those around the periphery, this minimally abraded BU coin is a pleasing representative of the Mono Seated Quarter type.

PCGS 4086

Purchased from Michael Gandy on October 3, 1988

2279 1877 Breen-4092, AU-55 (NGC). Warmly panarded in olive-gray shades, both sides also display gold and powder-blue undertones at more direct angles. With a readable original message this sharp looking example would fit easily into a Civil War Thru 1873

PCGS 4092

Purchased from Jonathan F. Price

2280 1877-CC Breen-4097, Briggs 3-C, Tall Close CC, AU-53 (PCGS). Like the 1877-CC the 1877-CC is a million pieces short, distal to a plentiful Carson City Mint issue in the Normal Quarter series. With two of the three issues remaining, the sharply struck galaxy-toned example should ring true in today's market as no more than a type or two of all available mintages. It highlights its bold and warm-toned surfaces.

PCGS 4097

Purchased from Jim Gray on March 1, 1988

2281 1877-S Breen-4095, Large S, AU-48 (NGC). The golden-gray surfaces are moderately bright with a trace of lavender. Sharp details are accented by areas of blue. Very typical of the early 1877-CC strikes.

PCGS 4095

Purchased from James Neimann on June 27, 2000

2282 1878 Breen-4101, AU-50 (PCGS). Richly tonished surfaces, with broad, mottled lavender and pale yellowish highlights that announce a golden-gray appearance over much of the obverse. The reverse and its surrounding fields are the same, yet the light reflects off the higher design features. Unique as a normal strike of a final year, only the 1878-S is a greater rarity. It appears to be about as scarce in the later produced grades. It is notable that this issue did not undergo general circulation with many examples having reached the Mint in prooflike condition via the original Morgan Dollar delivery route.

Purchased from David and Joyce

2283 1878-CC Breen-4103, Briggs 2-B, AU-58 (PCGS). After 1878, the only silver coins produced in the Carson City Mint were Morgan Silver Dollars. This final CC-mint Quarter has an overall mintage of 996,000 pieces, and survivors are more difficult to locate than those of the 1876-CC and 1877-CC deliveries. The obverse silver-toned surfaces reveal blotted pastel undertones at direct angles. Struck from cleaned dies, evidence of which can be seen on the fields. Sharply impressed, nonetheless, with a problematic appearance for the grade.

PCGS 4103

Purchased from Paul J. Regan

2284 1878-S Breen-4102, Briggs 1-A, the only known dies, MS-61 (NGC). Vivid electric-blue iridescence frames the reverse periphery and much of that area on the obverse, the balance of both sides exhibiting slightly mottled copper-gray patina. There is no bother; some striking incompleteness, and the number of wispy abrasions is uncommonly minimal for the BU level of preservation. Prior to 1870, the 1878-S was cast as the third rarest Seated Quarter from the San Francisco Mint. While it no longer rates that high on the rarity scale, the 1878-S (140,000 pieces struck) is still a scarce issue that is particularly difficult to locate in Mint State.

PCGS 4102

1878-S 4102

Ex Carl Goldstein, August 7, 1985, Lot 2862

2285 1879 Breen-4105, Briggs 1-A, MS-63 (PCGS). Beginning in 1879 and continuing through 1890, yearly Seated Quarter production at the Philadelphia Mint remained below the 100,000-piece mark. There are two theories for this limited production: the Mint had its hands full striking Silver Dollars, and/or there was no need to mint Quarters in circulation since the Treasury Department was amassing many older examples that had been hoarded since the Civil War. The 1879 has a business strike delivery of 15,600 pieces, one of which is this richly toned survivor. Copper-gray obverse toning yields to cobalt-blue and lavender undertones at direct angles. The reverse is equally sharp in strike with golden-blue shades back-lighting other-gray patination. The underlying mint luster is full with a particularly bright sheen on the reverse.

PCGS 4105

Purchased from Wayne Neimann on June 27, 2000

2286 1880 Breen-4107, Briggs 1-A, AU-55 (NGC). Silver-gray panga yields to electric-blue highlights in a few areas at the denudities. This partially tonished example is overall sharp in detail with slight to softy surface from a short stint in circulation. One of just 16,055 Quarters produced in 1880, and desirable as such.

PCGS 4107

Ex Carl Goldstein, August 7, 1985

2287 1881 Breen-4108, Briggs 1-A, AU-58 (NGC). This issue is more difficult to locate than the 1879 and 1880. Rich cobalt-gray toning overlays the obverse with similar hues adorning the reverse in somewhat dappled fashion. With the exception of the obverse star centris, which are always softly defined on business strikes of this issue, the devices are sharply struck with only minimal highpoint rub. A mere 12,975 Quarters were prepared at the Philadelphia Mint in 1881. 12,000 pieces of which were intended for circulation.

PCGS 4108

1881-A

*Ex Adrienne O. H. Didur and Dr. Richard L. Colter Collection**(Bowers and Merena, June 20, 1984, Lot 4002)*



2288 1882 Breen-4109, Briggs 1-A, MS-63 (NGC). Silver tinged iridescence allows full appreciation of modest, yet appreciable cartwheel luster effects. The strike is as sharp as one should expect for the issue, and the surfaces are free of all but one or two inconsequential abrasions. The 1882 (15,200 business strikes produced) is the scarcest of the low mintage 1879-1890 P-mint Quarters delivered to date.

PCGS# 5514.

2289 1883 Breen-4110, Briggs 1-A, AU-50 (PCGS). The otherwise silver-gray surfaces reveal richer copper-olive toning around the peripheries. Sharply impressed throughout without individually bothersome abrasions.

PCGS has certified this coin as a business strike, and it certainly has the appearance of one. However, the diagnostics match those of the Briggs 1-A marriage. According to the author (1991), this is the die marriage that the Mint used to strike proof Quarters in 1883, not business strikes. The obverse reveals remnants of an erian 8.3 in the denticles below the 88 in the date. While reverse A was used to strike both proofs and business strikes, the early state represented by this coin (upper olive berry still attached to branch) is supposed to exist only on proofs. A coin that is deserving of additional study by Seated Quarter variety specialists.

PCGS# 5515.

Purchased from Heritage

2290 1884 Breen-4111, Briggs 1-A, EF-45 (NGC). This issue has the second lowest mintage of any Quarter Dollar produced in the 1880s. Just 8,000 pieces were struck for circulation purposes, although worn examples such as the present Choice EF coin are actually scarcer than Mint State survivors. Richly toned in mottled tan-gray and copper-gray shades, the surfaces are silent on the subject of outwardly bothersome abrasions. Pleasingly sharp in overall definition.

PCGS# 5516.

Purchased from Jim Pigette on May 6, 1983

2291 1885 Breen-4112, Briggs 2-A, AU-53 (NGC). Deeply set blue-gray toning envelops not overly abraded surfaces. The patination lightens a bit in the more protected areas around the devices. An important business strike survivor from a total 1885 Quarter production of just 14,530 pieces.

PCGS# 5517.

Purchased from Harry Laibstain on January 12, 1984

2292 1886 Breen-4113, Briggs 1-A, EF-45 (PCGS). With the exception of the 1873-CC No Arrows, the 1886 is the rarest Seated Quarter in circulated grades. A mere 5,000 business strikes were produced, and, like the other low mintage issues of this decade, most examples probably never reached the avenues of commerce. Here's one coin that did, the surfaces acquiring overall light rub, but only a few trivial abrasions. Richly toned in russet-gray hues, this example should be of obvious importance to Seated Quarter date collectors.

PCGS Population: only two coins in all circulated grades.

PCGS# 5518.

2293 1887 Breen-4115, Briggs 1-A, AU-50 (NGC). Although this date has been widely hoarded since the time of issue, most examples in today's market are Mint State. This is a scarcer circulated example with silver-gray patina that deepens to olive-russet shading toward the borders. One or two obverse abrasions are seen, but the overall sharp definition ensures relatively solid eye appeal. Mintage: 10,000 business strikes.

PCGS# 5519.

Purchased from Norman Pullen

2294 1888 Breen-4116, Briggs 1-A, EF-45 (NGC). Slate-gray patina is seen on both sides, the reverse also exhibiting mottled russet shadings. There are no areas of excessive loss of detail, and noteworthy abrasions are also not seen. Although the 1888 has the same business strike mintage (10,000 pieces) as the 1887, it is a scarcer coin at all levels of preservation.

PCGS# 5520.

Purchased from Mike Vezzetti on June 22, 1983

2295 1888-S Breen-4117, Briggs 2-B, MS-60. This is a well struck example with crisp delineation between the devices. The reverse is lustrous, but the obverse is a bit glossy in texture from a probable light cleaning. A virtually untoned survivor of an issue that is typically found well worn. The 1888-S is the only branch mint Seated Quarter delivered in the 1880s, and, as an issue, it probably saw extensive commercial in the western United States.

PCGS# 5521.

Purchased from Summitt Rare Coins on May 28, 1991

2296 1889 Breen-4118, Briggs 1-A, EF-45 (NGC). This original, golden-gray example reveals faint blushes of original mint luster around some of the peripheral devices. An overall sharp, problem-free EF representative of this low mintage (12,000 business strikes) Quarter delivery.

PCGS# 5522.

Purchased from Norman Pullen

2297 1890 Breen-4119, Briggs 2-B, AU-55 (NGC). Original silver-gray patina with a crescent of blue gray color along the lower and right obverse borders. This is the final low mintage Philadelphia Mint issue in the Seated Quarter series, with 80,000 business strikes and 590 proofs delivered.

PCGS# 5523.

Purchased from Greenville South Carolina Coin Show on February 26, 1983

2298 1891 Breen-4120, Briggs, AU-53 (PCGS). A coin for the final year type collector who values originality; both sides exhibit mottled powder-blue and reddish-gold highlights over a base of medium gray patina. Sharply impressed with little wear and virtually no outwardly distracting abrasions.

PCGS# 5524.

Purchased from Charlotte North Carolina Coin Show on June 24, 1983



2299 1891-O Breen-4121, Briggs 1-A, AU-58 (PCGS). The New Orleans Mint released its first Quarter after the Civil War in 1865. The 1891-O is not only a long-vanished in the Seated Quarter series, but it is the only O-mint delivery of the Monticello-Wheat reverse. This issue is one of the few to show fine mint luster areas. The impossible-to-find example displays a well-known animal abrasion with only minor wear, perhaps having occurred late. The reverse is equally original with no toppings, and all of gold surfaces show good contrast among Toned or more linear toning. A few central hairlines appear slightly darker than the rest, and this uncommon feature seems to be unique to this date. Fine mint luster consists of some surface highlights and a few single-toned glazing areas in the corners. Luster is also visible on the rim. MS-61 (QD-56). (NGC) \$100.

For more information on this coin, see page 100.

Comments from Michael Cudmore:

2300 1891-S Breen-4122, AU-58 (PCGS). The first New Orleans Mint specimen is overall prooflike, showing a few scratches and a few minor nicks on the rim. The reverse shows a few small, faint marks, and the obverse has a few very small, faint marks. The reverse is a bit darker than the obverse, which features some fine, light-toned toning.

Comments from Michael Cudmore: page 100.

SEATED HALF DOLLARS



2301 1840 Breen-4743, No Drapery, AU-55 (NGC). Blazing orange-gold color, and clear, thin, fine-grained, mostly gold-toned. There is even a small area of blue-green toning located on the reverse. Strong and distinct heavy rim and central band that are undistorted. Both obverse and the reverse have abrasions, most of them on the reverse at the eagle's left wing tip. This is the primary issue of Louisiana's shortest Half Dollar. The design was modified during the later 1840s to include some drapery below Liberty's left arm, making the 'No Drapery' reverse-type a true type. High-grade, high-quality representations of this issue are seldom offered in catalog numbers.

Comments:

Published First Edition from the Catalogue of American J. J. (1861).

2302 1839 Breen-4745, With Drapery, MS-63 (PCGS). The addition of drapery folds at liberty's right thigh elbow and a recessive one to the rock upon which she is seated are the only major changes to appear on the Drapery Seated Half-Dollar type during the mid-1830s. As such, this Seated Liberty series is the only one that retained the basic essence of the Sully Umbrella motif for the duration of its lifespan.

While isolated 1839 Drapery Halves are relatively obtainable, the same cannot be said for Mint State examples. This is an intensely brilliant coin whose surfaces are bursting with a frosty sheen. Intense, contrasting aqua and powder-blue shades drift over sharply intersecting features in a dappled fashion. The centered obverse exhibits a commendable obverse glaze on Liberty's indentation (earrings), but is a distractingly raw to behold with both upperwing ear apparel and undeniably conductive parts in the center.

Comments from Michael Cudmore:

CG\$18,000.

Comments from Alan May:

\$10,000.

Comments from Alan May:

\$10,000.



2303 1840 Breen-4747, Reverse of 1838, AU-55 (NGC). Long thought to be a product of the Philadelphia Mint because no specimens are known, the 1840 Medium Letters (or Reverse of 1838) was actually struck at the New Orleans facility using a flower reverse of the former Ragged Edge type. Convincing evidence for this has been provided by Bill Bogen in our 1997 catalog of the Louis E. Clappier Sr. Collection. In that catalog, Bogen explains how he linking the two known obverses of the 1840 Reverse of 1838 Half with those used to strike 1840-O examples, he proved that the former issue is indeed a product of the Louisiana branch mint.

This is an appealing near-Mint example whose golden-glow suffuses the plenty of tones with luster. All features with the exception of a few of the reverse star centers are sharply defined, and eight one or two dimensions on that side are moderate in size. This issue has long been of interest to Seated Half specialists, although few have had as will here the opportunity to bid on a piece that is as 2000-mallis considered to be the coin in this lot.

The reverse of this Bogen's Obverse Type has another significant distinction in that it is the earliest known example of this reverse, although no flower reverse of the Obverse of 1838 is known. The 1840 Obverse (or flower reverse) has been seen in the New Orleans Mint, though in this is a Philadelphia Mint sample (and was "Sobieski's" selected reverse design).

Comments:

2304 1840 Breen-4748. Reverse of 1839. AU-58 (PCGS). Variegated steel-gray iridescence drifts over both sides, the lower obverse border area revealing a bluish olive patination. Sharply struck over the focal features with a virtually bisecting reverse crack (as struck) through the eagle's wings. Due to extensive circulation, this second-year P-mint delivery is more challenging to locate in the finer AU and Mint State grades than an original mintage of 1.4 million pieces might suggest.

This variety is listed as "Small Letters" in both the 2004 Guide Book and Breen's 1988 Encyclopedia.

PCGS# 6234

Ex: The Chalkley Collection (Superior Galleries, January 28 - 31, 1990), Lot 3568



2305 1840-O Breen-4753. Large O, MS-62 (NGC). The mintage of 855,100 O-mint Half Dollars in 1840 was further broken down to separate individual mintages for three different mintmark varieties recorded by Walter Breen. According to Breen, this information was contained in a letter from the Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint, sent to Mint Director Robert Patterson, and dated April 18, 1840. This golden-toned representative is swirling with softly frosted luster. There are no ill-defined features on either side, and the number of scattered abrasions is relatively minimal for the grade. Conditionally scarce.

Struck from a heavily tinted obverse die, evidence of which can be easily seen throughout Liberty's portrait with a liope. Although this die is not the same that represented by the 1840 Reverse of 1838 example in this sale, it was also paired with that reverse and used to strike coins of that important O-mint variety.

NGC Census: 6 just 9 finer.
PCGS# 6235

Ex: Stack's, October 1998, Lot 384

2306 1841 Breen-4754. AU-55 (NGC). From a limited original mintage of 310,000 coins comes this attractively patinated, Choice About Uncirculated example. The otherwise lilac-gray toning yields to more vivid powder-blue and orange-gold shadings around the obverse periphery. Ample remnants of a satiny finish are noted, as is crisp striking delineation between the design elements. A bit scuffy from circulation, yet free of sizeable distractions.

PCGS# 6236

2307 1841-O Breen-4757. AU-58 (NGC). Rich, slightly mottled reddish-russet toning dominates the outward appearance on the obverse of this smartly impressed O-mint Half. The reverse is silver tinged with myriad die breaks (as produced) around the periphery. There are not really any mentionable post-production distractions on either side, although scattered abrasions are, of course, noted. Minimally circulated survivors of the early O-mint Halves are nowhere near as common as some of the original mintages might suggest.

PCGS# 6237

Purchased from David W. Lange



2308 1842 Breen-4759. Small Date, Reverse of 1842. MS-61 (NGC). This Small Date variety is considerably scarcer than the Medium Date offered in the lot above, and is seldom encountered in full Mint State preservation. In his Encyclopedia, Walter Breen divided the mintage of 1842 Half Dollars for each variety, and stated that this Small Date issue had a mintage of just 191,000 coins. A few swirls of "old silver" tinting interrupt the otherwise olive-apricot sheen of this original example. Shrimpy struck with satiny luster and a not overabundant set of tiny, wisp abrasions.

NGC Census: 6 just 10 finer. There are just four additional coins.

PCGS# 6238

Purchased from DeLongui's Public Sale Catalogue, September 11, 1993

Impressive 1842-O Small Date Half Dollar Rarity



2309 1842-O Breen-4758. Small Date, Reverse of 1839. AU-58 (NGC). This is the rarest single die variety in the O-mint Seated Half Dollar series. Although this variety is usually referred to as the Small Date, Reverse of 1839, the latter is actually a mintage some New Orleans Mint Halves of the same date struck in 1839. What numismatists are actually referring to with the latter designation is the Small Letters variety of the Second Half (produced by the first Philadelphia Mint) delivered in 1839. Regardless, the 12 O Small Date, Reverse of 1839 is an issue that always generates bids from collectors whenever an example appears at auction. The reason is that the typically offered survivor is this variety. Uncirculated, bright-gray representation. Some goldening along the backplate die, some minor patination, although no coin direct light angle will fail to reveal significant noteworthy abrasions. With flukes of original luster and overall bold, if not truly definition, this coin may be numbered as one of the most appealing examples of its variety.

The Small Date, Reverse of 1839 Halves are thought to have been struck as part of the New Orleans Mint's initial 1832 coinage beginning February 28 of that year. A certain percentage of the coins were originally included with the 1841-O die below, so we do not know exactly how many 12 O Reverse of 1839 Halves may actually strike.

12 O Small Date, Reverse of 1839. Estimated mintage around 1,000,000. Total NGC Census: 12 just 10 finer. The reverse die, represented by the obverse of the 1842-O coin with the 12 O, contains some of the most intense die characteristics found. The 12 O reverse die is considered to be one of the best dies ever to grace a U.S. coin.

PCGS# 6239



2310 1842 Breen-4760, Medium Date, MS-62 (NGC). Original in every sense of the word, this otherwise date-gray example reveals splashes of multicolored peripheral toning that are much more extensive on the reverse. Both sides are equally well struck with only a few trivial abrasions here and there. Satin to softly frosted lumen is noted. Although traditionally challenging in its own right, the Medium Date is actually the more plentiful Seated Half-Dollar off the 1842 Philadelphia Mint Half-Dollar delivery.

See Details, 7th Note from Numismatist
CGC 8000



2311 1842-O Breen-4764, Medium Date, Reverse of 1842, MS-62 (NGC), the reverse of 1842-O. This is one of the most interesting survivors from the original 1842-O delivery. The reverse shows a large, luminous gold-toned field. The 1842-O obverse (right) is shown. A small example of the Little Tontine variety can be seen below. It features three stars on the obverse that were left over from the original six stars planned from those of the original 1842-O mint coin. Reverse of 1842 delivery has a very faint, soft, yellowish-green patina on the reverse, with some darker, reddish-orange color in the fields of polished surfaces that bring out a reddish-orange center. The reverse is predominantly orange or yellow, but with a thin, dark and discontinuous discontinuous border for the toning. Grade (as seen in photo) is MS-62 based on the less interesting specimen.

See Details, 7th Note from Numismatist
CGC 8000

See Details, 8th Note from Numismatist, last note for 1842-O

2312 1843 Breen-4765, MS-61 (NGC). An important finding opportunity for the Mint State specialists... this luminous example displays semi-reflective iridescence in the fields that are more randomly applied on the reverse. One side is known, but the obverse exhibits smooth toning and fine green patination around the periphery. Sharp, engraved throughout and centered, grading medium brilliant and several light toneretsude the lumen are visible emanating from the reverse borders.

CGC 8000

See Details, 8th Note from Numismatist, last note



2313 1843-O Breen-4767, MS-61 (NGC). The high grade rarity of this New Orleans Mint issue eclipses that of its similarly dated W-mint counterpart. Attractively toned in dominante tanish-green shades, this frosty textured example also displays vivid sargento and orange/gold patina around the obverse periphery. With a crisp strike and no outwardly bothersome abrasions, this coin has the eye appeal, if not the technical quality, of a finer Uncirculated grade.

See Details, 8th Note from Numismatist, last note for 1843-O

See Details, 9th Note from Numismatist, last note

2314 1844 Breen-4771, AU-58 (NGC). Rich dove-gray patina covers boldly struck, minimally rubbed features. A problem-free rarity. Uncirculated representative of the No Motto Seated Half-Dollar type. Some more vivid undertones are seen as the coin rotates under a light.

CGC 8000

See Details, 9th Note from Numismatist, last note

2315 1844-O Breen-4773, AU-58 (NGC). This originally preserved example displays dominant "old silver" patination with blushing pale olive tinting in a few areas toward the rims. The sharply struck features are overall smooth despite having spent a short time in circulation. All-in-all, a very pleasing example for the grade.

CGC 8000

See Details, 9th Note from Numismatist, last note

See Details, 10th Note from Numismatist, last note



2316 1845 Breen-4776, MS-63 (NGC). Only 589,000 Half Dollars were struck in the Philadelphia Mint in 1845, a total that is quite a bit lower than that recorded for most other P-mint deliveries of the 1840s. The 1845 is scarce in the BU grades, and rare at the Choice-Gem levels. Bright with a glowing, satin textured finish, both sides are veiled in warm golden-apricot iridescence. There are hardly any toneretsude that are not sharply defined, and just one or two wispy abrasions seem to preclude an even finer Mint State rating. Among the more important P-mint Seated Half offerings in this sale, and a find for the specialist.

See Details, 8th Note from Numismatist, last note for 1845

CGC 8000

See Details, 11th Note from Numismatist, last note



2317 1845-O Breen-4778. No Drapery. AU-58 (NGC). This important Guide Book variety does not refer to the No Drapery design used to strike some of the 1839-dated Halves of this type. Rather, the lack of drapery on Liberty's right (facing) elbow on some 1845-O Halves is the result of excessive polishing that removed this feature from the working die. Some iridescent russet tinting accents mostly lustrous, satiny surfaces. Powerfully impressed with no singularly reportable abrasions.

PCGS# 6249.

Purchased from Summit Rare Coins on April 9, 1993

2318 1846 Breen-4789. Tall Date. AU-58 (NGC). Incorrectly attributed as a Medium Date on the NGC insert, this is a Tall Date example with an unmistakably open mouth to the 6. Splashes of pale silver-gray tinting interrupt the otherwise richly toned, olive and orange-russet sheen. The wear is light and confined to the highpoints, and there are only a few well scattered abrasions in evidence.

PCGS# 6251.

Purchased from Norm Pullen

2319 1846-O Breen-4792. Medium Date. No Drapery. AU-55 (NGC). This variety was produced in the same manner as the 1845-O No Drapery, the present coin also displaying repunching on the knob of 6 in the date. Soft pearl-gray toning with pale lilac undertones. Both sides are sharply struck with only the lightest highpoint rub from a short stint in circulation.

PCGS# 6255.

Purchased from Jim Payette on March 31, 1983

2320 1847 Breen-4798. AU-55 (NGC). The obverse is toned in mottled olive-gray patina that appears to drift toward the border. The reverse, while equally original, is more deeply patinated in charcoal-gray hues. Both sides are sharp in definition despite a little bit of highpoint wear. Virtually all of the scattered abrasions are small in size and not singularly distracting.

PCGS# 6257.

Purchased from Norm Pullen on November 21, 1983

2321 1847-O Breen-4803. AU-55 (NGC). Originally preserved with dusky lavender-gray toning, this O-mint type candidate is well struck and problem-free within the context of the Choice AU grade level.

PCGS# 6259.

Ex: Stack's, May 2 - 4, 1985. Lot 356



2322 1848 Breen-4806. MS-60 (NGC). Like the 1845, the 1848 was produced in limited numbers (580,000 pieces) for a P-mint Half from the 1840s, and Mint State survivors are infrequently offered in today's market. A solid Uncirculated survivor, the satiny surfaces are more-or-less untoned save for some light olive-gray tinting along

much of the peripheries. Sharply struck with scattered abrasions and a few planchet voids (as struck) in the right obverse field.

PCGS# 6260.

Ex: Auction '82, August 13 - 14, 1982, Lot 760



2323 1848-O Breen-4811. MS-61 (NGC). The 4 in the date is open, a variety that Breen (1988) describes as "very rare." This is a conditionally scarce representative of the issue as a whole with shimmering satiny luster and none but the lightest wisps of toning. The strike is a little soft around the obverse periphery, but the focal features are sharply impressed. A few scattered, grade-defining abrasions are seen, none of which are worthy of individual mention.

The reverse die was shattered at the time of striking with cracks throughout the peripheral lettering. Also the O in O'Neil's mark is broken at the bottom, most likely from excessive die polishing in that area.

NGC Census:

PCGS# 6261.

Ex: Coin Galleries, July 21, 1982. Lot 1917

2324 1849 Breen-4814. AU-58 (NGC). It is highly likely that many of the 1.2 million Half Dollars delivered in the Philadelphia Mint in 1849 were melted in the years leading up to the passage of the February 21, 1853 Mint Act. This fortunate survivor is rim-toned in copper-russet shades. Predominantly lustrous with a satin-to-softer frosted sheen, both sides are sharply defined with the expected number of wispy circulation marks.

PCGS# 6262.

Purchased from Mike Grada on August 15, 1983

2325 1849-O Breen-4818. AU-58 (NGC). The sharp-looking devices are bumping up against the Mint State threshold. Significantly lustrous for the assigned grade; both sides are essentially die-struck free and bathed in warm apricot and lavender-gray toning.

PCGS# 6263.

Purchased from Fremont Coins on August 10, 1989



2326 1850 Breen-4820. Open 5. MS-60 (NGC). Both sides are sharply in luster quality with medium intensity golden-gray patina. The strike is sharp if initially off key, and there are no more than the expected number of scattered bagmarks for the BU designation. Beginning in 1850 and continuing through 1852, Half Dollar production at the Philadelphia Mint was limited due to the continually rising price of silver bullion. In the year represented by this coin, the mintage was just 227,000 pieces.

PCGS# 6264.

Purchased from Mike Grada on January 13, 1984

2327 1850-O Breen-4822, Open 5, Partial Drapery, AU-55 (PCGS). The otherwise pewter-gray toning scheme assumes somewhat of a bluish gray sheen at certain angles, particularly on the obverse. Free of noteworthy abrasions with overall sharp definition to the devices. According to Breen, the Open 5, Partial Drapery variant of the 1850-O Half was discovered by Randy Waley in 1979.

[PCGS]



2328 1851 BB-4824, MS-63 (NGC). (Same mintmark as above) Second, both sides in pleasing lavender patina. The reverse has some of its golden traditional toning balanced by darker, deeper toning in silver-porphyrin tones. Boldly struck, sharp strike, and contains mostly brilliant frosted surfaces on the reverse. (2000+ "9" pieces, confirmed) -Whitman Case.

[PCGS]

The Author's Note: (Important Note: Some 1850-O Breen-4824)

2329 1851-O Breen-4827, MS-67 (PCGS). Both sides in excellent condition, both sides and extremely fine on the obverse. The reverse is a strong, bright, and fully defined MS-67 specimen. Perhaps the best of all known Mint State specimens from this date. (10,000+ "8" pieces, confirmed) -Whitman Case.

[PCGS]

The Author's Note: (Important Note: Breen-4827)

2330 1852-O Breen-4829, AU-53 (NGC). This is a striking, almost perfect 1852-O from a golden cream-colored AU-55 lot prior. Obverse contains golden cream metallic portions, purple, orange. There is no doubt about the device definitions or overall sharpness, and the overall toning is of major distinction in the marketplace. We suspect this Seated Half Dollar for this edition will be considered finally 10,000 survivors, less than 1,000 now.

[PCGS]



2331 1852-O Breen-4832, AU-58 (PCGS). As an issue, the 1852-O (144,000 pieces produced) is the rarest New Orleans Mint Seated Half. (The 1852-O Small Date Reverse of 1839 is rarer, but it is considered to be just one variety of the 1842-O delivery.) An absolutely original and uncommonly well preserved survivor from the present catalog is a work in rich lavender-gray patina with flashes of bluish-gray toning around the peripheral devices. Remnants of the original finish shimmer at diverse angles and virtually all features are sharply defined, generally problem-free with strong eye appeal and much to recommend. It is especially in Mint Liberty coinage.

*[PCGS]**[PCGS]**[PCGS]*

2332 See facing page, Page 43.

2333 1853 Breen-4835, Arrows and Rays, AU-58 (NGC). Golden-gray toning blankets minimally abraded and even more minimally some abrasions. A sharp looking survivor from this, the first, and last year on which Arrows and Rays Seated Half Dollars were struck at the Philadelphia Mint.

*[PCGS]**[PCGS]*

2334 1853-O Breen-4836, Arrows and Rays, AU-58 (NGC). This is one of our favorite issues in the Seated Half Dollar series, the reasons matching those enumerated in our discussion of the (AU-58 PCGS) 1853-O Arrows and Rays Quarter offered above. Antiqued surfaces backlit dove-gray patination, the devices exhibiting near sharp striking definition in all areas. With essentially no grading wear and none but the most trivial abrasions, this coin possesses stronger eye appeal than many BU examples that we have handled.

*[PCGS]**[PCGS]*

2335 1854 Breen-4845, Arrows, MS-61 (NGC). We cannot overstate the importance of this lot to Mint State type collectors. Free of wear with a suitable lustrous, satin sheen, both sides are overall sharp in strike. The otherwise steel-gray iridescent that blankets the features yields to dappled olive and orange-russet shadings in select peripheral areas.

*[PCGS]**[PCGS]*

2336 1854 Breen-4845, Arrows, MS-61 (NGC). We cannot overstate

[PCGS]

Finest Known 1853-O No Arrows Half Dollar

One of Only Three Examples Traced

From the Garrett Collection; Unknown Per Mint Records
Considered Uncollectible



2332 1853-O Breen-4834. No Arrows. VF-35 (PCGS). This is a landmark rarity in the U.S. Half Dollar series, and the present coin is the finest of just three known 1853-O No Arrows Half Dollars. It is an issue whose exact history has remained hidden from leading numismatic catalogers and researchers since the first example was offered by J.W. Haseltine prior to 1881. The commentary in the next paragraph is based upon efforts to reconstruct the events that took place at the New Orleans Mint early in 1853.

We do know that the Philadelphia Mint prepared six obverse dies (without arrows at the date) in apparent anticipation of a sizeable production of O-mint Half Dollars in 1853. One of these dies was selected by Mint personnel in New Orleans, paired with a leftover reverse from 1851 or earlier (Breen reports that 19 were on hand), and used to strike an unknown, although presumably very limited number of 1853-O No Arrows Half Dollars. This delivery undoubtedly took place early in 1853, or, more specifically, before passage of the Mint Act of February 21, 1853, the subsequent lowering of the Half Dollar's weight from 1.375 grams to 1.344 grams, and the addition of arrows at the date and rays around the eagle to denote this change. Upon receipt of instruction to produce Half Dollars only at the newly mandated weight standard, New Orleans Mint personnel destroyed the majority of the 1853-O No Arrows examples.

While the foregoing chain of events progresses logically, it leaves two important questions unanswered, the first of which is twofold: how and when did the three known examples of the '53-O No Arrows delivery find their way into circulation, and exactly how many 1853-O Half Dollars were struck without arrows and rays? In addition, there are other possibilities for the production of 1853-O No Arrows Halves that numismatic scholars have advanced at one time or another. First, however, the unanswered questions:

If Mint employees in New Orleans did strike an appreciable number of business strike No Arrow Half Dollars in 1853, what percentage of the mintage released into circulation prior to passage of the aforementioned Mint Act? If some examples were, then the three known coins are most likely pieces that not only survived commercial use (where many coins are simply worn out and/or lost), but also avoided falling into the hands of speculators who had been making a nice profit from melting old tenor silver coins for their bullion value since the onset of the California Gold Rush. There is also the possibility that the 1853-O No Arrow Half Dollars were not officially released into circulation, but rather the three known coins, along with perhaps others, avoided the Mint's melting pot. These coins may have ended up in a hopper with the new, lighter weight Arrows and Rays coins and were released into circulation some time after February 21. (The same circumstances whereby the three known examples survived circulation and avoided bullion dealers' hands would also have to hold true for this scenario.) Since both of these scenarios could explain how and when a few 1853-O No Arrows Half Dollars entered circulation while still maintaining the integrity of our proposed reconstruction of the events in New Orleans during early 1853, we do not credit one as being more plausible than the other.

As for the second unanswered question regarding the exact number of 1853-O No Arrows halves originally produced, the absence of a separate listing for this issue in official records leaves us with absolutely no basis upon which even a rudimentary guess could be based. Once again, if we accept our above mentioned chain of events as true (this issue was officially prepared prior to the Mint Act of February 21), then either the original mintage was not recorded after all (or what Mint employees in New Orleans thought were all) examples were destroyed, or (if a minuscule number of coins were actually officially released into circulation) the mintage figure comprises some tiny percentage of the 1,328,000-piece total recorded for the 1853-O Arrows and Rays delivery.

Let us now assume that the New Orleans Mint did not prepare even a small mintage of 1853-O No Arrows Half Dollars for commercial purposes. Numismatic scholars such as Walter Breen, Randy Wiley, and Bill Bugert have put forth theories in an effort to fill the gap created by the assumed lack of an official '53-O No Arrows delivery. The first mentioned author, in his 1998 Encyclopedia states: "Absence of any record of manufacture suggests that the few survivors were made for presentation purposes, only to be spent

later or kept as pocket pieces.⁵ We find it difficult to credit this theory because, if presentation pieces were prepared, the odds that all specimens were placed into circulation and not recognized for their rarity for a period of many years seems highly unlikely. Wouldn't at least one of the specimens have survived in an unimpaired state? Furthermore, we are not aware of any noteworthy events that took place at the New Orleans Mint in 1853 other than the approved weight change for the Half Dime, Dime, Quarter, and Half Dollar. If officials there considered this weight reduction to be worthy of commemoration, then wouldn't the presentation pieces have been struck using the new Arrows and Rays design? Wilby and Bentig (1993) speculate that the pieces may have been presented clandestinely to presentation collections with close ties to Mint personnel. Once again, this theory does not hold up given the level of presentation for the three known examples. Also, while we are finding evidence for such clandestine practices to take place in the Philadelphia Mint during the 1850s, we have not seen any other instance from 1850 until our smaller collection of San Francisco.

1336 1854-O Breen-4850. Arrows. AU-58 (NGC). Shimmering with a mostly lustrous, frosty textured sheen, this coin is unmarred with only the expected number of scattered abrasions for the grade. While we have handled numerous examples of this issue that are unevenly struck, the representative in this lot is sharp throughout. An offering for the branch mint type collector.

2337 1855 Breen-4856. Arrows. AU-50 (NGC). Richly tinted in lavender-gray hues; this originally and well preserved AU example retains ample evidence of a satiny finish. Only light wear is noted, this being confined to the highest points of the design.

2338 1855-O Breen-4859. Arrows. AU-55 (NGC). Deeply set raised overlays both sides in russet gray and slate-gray hues. Like the 1854-O, the 1855-O was produced in sizeable numbers with examples being favored among both circulated and Mint State type collectors.

Rare Nearly Uncirculated 1855-S Half Dollar

The Premier S-Mint Half Dollar in U.S. Coinage History

The Only S-Mint Issue of the
1854-1855 Arrows Type



2339 1855-S Breen-4864. Arrows, No Drapery. AU-58 (NGC). Although production of gold coins commenced in San Francisco in 1854, the first silver coins did not emerge from the presses there until 1855. The .55-S Half Dollar is significantly rarer than its similarly dated Quarter counterpart, and it is one of the keys to the 1839-1891 Seated Liberty series. The critical need for circulating coinage in the California of the mid-1850s meant that virtually all of the 129,950 S-mint Halves produced in 1855 not only entered circulation, but remained there until worn out or lost. This is a very challenging issue to locate today in grades at or near the Mint State level; the present coin rating as one of the finest that we have handled in recent years. Virtually the entire endowment of softly frosted luster remains, both sides being veiled in iridescent champagne apricot patina that lightens over the reverse. The strike is sharp and free of criticism, and we are unable to locate even a worthy pedigree marker because the surfaces are so free of singularly conspicuous abrasions. A flashy example that would form the centerpiece of any specialized collection.

2340 1856 Breen-4866. MS-60. The outward appearance is one of rich charcoal-gray toning. Direct angles, however, reveal a curiously bright underlying sheen with iridescent highlights. Some closely spaced hairlines in the fields are also evident as the coin rotates under a light; these betraying prior mishandling. A more affordable BU type candidate with bold-to-sharp striking detail throughout.

PCGS# 6287.

Ex: Stack's, October 24 - 26, Lot 623

2341 1856-O Breen-4868. Repunched Date. MS-62 (NGC). Frosty and bright, this virtually untoned representative is sharply struck up in all areas. There are some pale iridescent highlights at the denticles, but singularly mentionable abrasions are not seen. With an original mintage of 2.6 million pieces, the 1856-O is one of the more plentiful O-mint Halves of this type.

A loupe reveals repunching on the 56 in the date.

PCGS# 6288.

Ex: Stack's, April 29 - May 1, 1987, Lot 684

2342 1856-S Breen-4870. AU-53. This is a very appealing representative of a scarce, conditionally challenging issue. Peripherally patinated in pale, dappled, dove-gray shades, the surfaces are otherwise silver-toned with plenty of mint luster remaining. Neither the striking quality nor the surface preservation are worthy of criticism. One of just 211,000 pieces produced, the vast majority of which have been lost to circulation on the frontier.

Removed from an AU-53 NGC holder.

PCGS# 6289.

Purchased from Mike Vezetti on October 25, 1982

2343 1857 Breen-4872. MS-60 (PCGS). With crisp striking detail over the focal features and a lack of sizeable abrasions, this lilac-gray example presents uncommonly well for the assigned grade. The luster is a bit subdued, nonetheless, but this coin should still be of obvious interest to budget-minded Mint State type collectors.

PCGS# 6290.

Ex: Coin Galleries, February 27, 1985, Lot 2040



2344 1857-O Breen-4874. MS-61 (NGC). This is one of only a few New Orleans Mint Half Dollars with a mintage of less than one million coins, in this instance totaling just 818,000 pieces. Once again, lower grade survivors are the norm. Fully Mint State, the example in this lot shimmers with frosty luster and a bright, mostly untoned sheen. The razor sharp strike is noteworthy for a product of the Louisiana branch mint, and there are no abrasions that are not either small in size or well scattered in distribution.

NGC Census: just eight coins in all Mint State grades.

PCGS# 6291.

Ex: Coin Galleries, April 10, 1985, Lot 2193



2345 1857-S Breen-4877. Medium S. AU-58. This issue has a very limited original mintage of 158,000 coins, which is the fourth lowest total ever for any San Francisco Mint Half Dollar of the 1855-1878 era. A lovely, original survivor, both sides are partially lustrous beneath warm silver-gray and golden patination. The surfaces present a well balanced look with crisply delineated features and an uncommon lack of sizeable abrasions. Sure to inspire significant bidding activity when it appears at auction.

Removed from an NGC holder with a grade of AU-58 on the insert.

PCGS# 6292.

Ex: Stack's, June 20 - 21, 1985, Lot 161

2346 1858 Breen-4877. Type I Reverse. AU-55 (NGC). The otherwise lavender-gray toning warms to golden-apricot hues as the coin dips into a light. Remnants of the original finish are also evident at such angles, but neither side reveals any abrasions worthy of undue concern. Boldly, if not sharply, impressed throughout.

PCGS# 6293.

Purchased from South Beach Supplies, Inc.

2347 1858-O Breen-4882. AU-58 (NGC). Ample remnants of a bright satiny sheen peer through mortled silver and golden undertones. There are really 6/6 areas of both erosive striking softness, and the number of wispy surface abrasions is minimal.

PCGS# 6294.

Purchased from Mike Graham on June 17, 1981

2348 1858-S Breen-4886. Large S. AU-58 (NGC). With sharp, virtually complete striking definition and pleasingly vibrant mint luster, this coin has the nice appeal of an Uncirculated grade. Evenly endowed in champagne gold undertones with none but the smallest abrasions scattered about. From a not overly generous mintage of 576,000 pieces, come this conditionally scarce early-S-variety Half.

New census: 0/100.

PCGS# 6295.

Ex: Imperial Stamp Co.-Came February 1st, 1819th, Lot 1915

2349 1859 Breen-4889. Type II Reverse. MS-60. Probably lightly branched at one time, as evidenced by some wispy hairlines in the fields, but since refined in mortled slate gray and olive-chocolate shades. There are also apricot and electric blue undertones in the reverse, with the otherwise sharp strike waning over only a few of the obverse star centers. This coin presents relatively well despite the aforementioned distractions.

PCGS# 6296.

Purchased from Eddie Rundell on August 1st, 1987

2350 1859-O Breen-4890. AU-58 (NGC). Rich toning overlies overall sharp features in dominant lavender-chocolate shades. Ample remnants of satiny luster and golden-blue undertones are evident at more direct angles. A popular New Orleans Mint issue among type collectors.

PCGS# 6297.

Ex: Coin Galleries, November 14, 1984, Lot 2694

2351 1859-S Breen-4894, Medium S, AU-58 (PCGS). A beautiful-toned representative, both sides exhibit orange gold peripheral highlights framing softer, bluish-silver centers. Sharply impressed over all focal features with virtually full lustre, uncommonly smooth surfaces and the look of a full Mint State grade. We cannot say enough about this coin, and suspect that it will make a strong price. Certainly among the more attractive survivors of this \$60,000-plus delivery.

PCGS 88
Ex. The James Breen Type Collection, Phoenix and New Jersey
25 January 1993, Lot 168

2352 1860 Breen-4896. Type II Reverse, AU-58. Beautifully sharp in strike with a spectrum of blazed and orange-tinted toning covering much of the obverse border. The reverse periphery has no toning and the large date at the bottom has the look of a bold rub, an interesting nuance. Details present with a somewhat soft appearance from a paucity of significant metal displacement. The 1860 is a classic P-mint Half from the California mint, just \$18,000 from auction.

PCGS 88
Ex. The James Breen Type Collection, Phoenix and New Jersey
25 January 1993, Lot 169

2353 1860-U Breen-4898. Type II Reverse, AU-58 (NGC). Faded orange-toned washes dominate obverse and periphery from extensive and longstanding standing light abrasions. With overall sharp definition and much of the original finish remaining, this is a most obtainable type coin to those collectors.

PCGS 88
Ex. The James Breen Type Collection, Phoenix and New Jersey
25 January 1993, Lot 170

2354 1860-S Breen-4900. Large S, AU-58 (NGC). A decent number of 1860-S halves were delivered from the Philadelphia Mint to the San Francisco Mint during 1860, but none were from female dies and could never measure up to the 1860-O. There are, however, a few more 1860-S examples. Much of the same from toning, with sides being splashed in irregularities of gold and orange reddish-orange tones. Standing light abrasions, a few small nicks and like the others before, the coins from this mint are scarce.

PCGS 88
Ex. The James Breen Type Collection, Phoenix and New Jersey
25 January 1993, Lot 171

2355 1860-Breen-4902. AU-58 (NGC). Medium-toned, with scattered visual abrasions and some in the obverse border strike. The sharply impressed features are present in a mix of yellow-gold patina and a few surface gold reflections on the borders. A reasonably sharp and otherwise slab-travelled example type for United States history.

PCGS 88
Ex. The James Breen Type Collection, Phoenix and New Jersey
25 January 1993, Lot 172

2356 1861-O Breen-4904. AU-58 (PCGS). 1/10 of a million coins of the New Orleans Mint struck Half Dollars for the Latter Seal (\$100,000) payout at the State of Louisiana's \$2 million cost, and the Confederate States of America (1862-1865) passed in 1863. The present example does not display the obverse die break from the run to the bridge of Liberty's hair. It does, however, exhibit nearly fully, some minor haze and delicate champagne-toned mottling along the obverse field. The final column issue in the series.

PCGS 88
Ex. The James Breen Type Collection, Phoenix and New Jersey
25 January 1993, Lot 173

2357 1861-S Breen-4908. Medium S, AU-55. Fully original mounted, orange-toned patina blankets much of the reverse as well as the obverse periphery. The balance of the features are silver-toned, and all areas are sharply impressed. With no singularly mentioned abrasions, this is a coin for the specialist who appreciates originality as well as strong (for the choice AU level) technical quality.

Removed from PCGS 85 PCGS slab
PCGS# 6306
Purchased from Norm Pullen on August 18, 1982.

2358 1862 Breen-4909. AU-55 (NGC). The onset of the Civil War resulted in a limited P-mint Half Dollar delivery of just 253,000 business strikes in 1862. This minimally circulated survivor is dove-gray in tone on the reverse. The obverse exhibits rich cellular-blue peripheral color and an off-center swirl of apricot-gold toning over and around Liberty's portrait. Sharp in strike with remnants of the original mint evident on the latter side.

PCGS 88
Ex. The James Breen Type Collection, Phoenix and New Jersey
25 January 1993, Lot 174

2359 1862-S Breen-4911. Medium S, AU-58 (NGC). The striking definition is curious in that the central features are more-or-less bold while the peripheral areas and rims are softly impressed. Sunny topaz-yellow and champagne-toned iridescence flow over both sides in the absence of singularly reportable abrasions. The 1862-S boasts the largest mintage of all Civil War era (1861-1865) Half Dollar deliveries from the California branch mint.

PCGS 88
Ex. The James Breen Type Collection, Phoenix and New Jersey
25 January 1993, Lot 175

Presented from Mike Gobin on April 18, 1983



2360 1863 Breen-4913. MS-64 (PCGS). Much of what little button did reach the Philadelphia Mint during the Civil War was coined into Half Dollars. The 1863 has a respectable (by the standards of the era) original mintage of 503,200 business strikes, but it is seldom offered in the finer Mint State grades. Splendidly original with full mint luster, this coin displays mottled tannish-gray and powder-blue toning around a virtually brilliant center on the obverse. The reverse, on the other hand, is evenly endowed in dove gray patina, save for a partial crescent of powder-blue toning at the left border. A sharp strike and overall smooth surfaces round out this coin's definitive list of positive attributes.

PCGS 88
Ex. The James Breen Type Collection, Phoenix and New Jersey
25 January 1993, Lot 176

2361 1863-Breen-4915. AU-58 (NGC). Gold-toned, this frosty-textured example retains nearly full mint bloom despite a little light rub and a peppering of tiny abrasions. The otherwise sharp strike wants a little toward the upper obverse border.

PCGS 88
Ex. The James Breen Type Collection, Phoenix and New Jersey
25 January 1993, Lot 177

2362 1864-Breen-4917. AU-55 (NGC). While cleaned and/or otherwise impaired 1864 Halves are readily available from the Guatemala Hoard, this issue is somewhat scarce at problem-free AU grade levels. An originally toned example, both sides are drenched in charcoal-gray toning that warms to medium gold colors at direct angles. Impressively sharp in strike with just a few small abrasions evident in the upper reverse field. After the 1862, the 1864 boasts the lowest mintage (379,570 pieces) of any P-mint Half Dollar delivered during the Civil War.

PCGS 88
Ex. The Hake S. Greene Collection (Bowers and Merena, June 1985), Lot 2078

2363 1864-S Breen-4918. Large S. AU-58 (NGC). Warmly patinated in golden-olive shades, this minimally worn survivor is boldly, if not sharply detailed over most features. Much of the softly frosted finish remains, and there are uncommonly few abrasions for a circulated S-mint Half Dollar from the early frontier era.

PCGS# 6312.

Ex: Stack's, May 2 - 4, 1985, Lot 369

2364 1865 Breen-4922. AU-58 (NGC). An attractively original example, the obverse is target toned in (from the border to the center) cobalt-blue, lavender, and apricot-gray shades. The reverse exhibits more of a uniform appearance, although the dominant silver tinting deepens a bit to champagne-apricot patina at the denticles. Sharply struck throughout, and free of mentionable distractions with the exception of a well concealed reverse spot over the rim outside the E in UNITED. Nevertheless, with partial mint luster, solid technical merits, and strong eye appeal, we wholeheartedly recommend this coin to date collectors.

PCGS# 6313.

Ex: Stack's, January 14 - 15, 1987, Lot 307



2365 1865-S Breen-4962. Small, Broad S. MS-62 (NGC). This is a scarce S-mint Half despite a respectable original mintage of 675,000 pieces. Far finer than the typically offered EF-AU example, this BU coin is toned in warm champagne-silver patina with splashes of olive and orange tinting scattered about. Modest, yet appreciable cart wheel luster effects from a softly frosted finish accent overall sharply struck focal features. The number of scattered abrasions seems minimal for the designated grade.

NGC Census 1: 12 finer.

PCGS# 6314.



2366 1866-S Breen-4929. No Motto. AU-53 (NGC). This is the only collectible silver coin of the No Motto design from 1866. A total of just 60,000 examples were produced, and locating an attractive representative today is nearly impossible. The partially lustrous representative in this lot is overlaid in warm golden patina with a few blushes of russet tinting at the lower right obverse border. The overall appearance remains bold despite a little bit of highpoint rub. Accuracy compels us to mention an obverse pinscratch from the rim before star 1.

PCGS# 6315.

Purchased from Mike Graham on November 18, 1983

2367 1866 Breen-4933. Motto. AU-58 (NGC). Rich gunmetal-gray toning and powder-blue undertones (obverse periphery only) speak volumes about the originality of this minimally abraded example. The definition is impressively sharp in most areas, although we note a few reverse rollmarks (as produced) that did not strike out over the lower eagle. An important issue for type purposes, 1866 marks the first year in which the motto IN GOD WE TRUST appears on the Half Dollar.

PCGS# 6316.

Purchased from J.J. Teaparty

2368 1866-S Breen-4935. Motto. AU-58. Somewhat hazy in outward appearance, both sides of golden-toned (or retoned) with several sharp die breaks (as struck) around the obverse periphery. The definition is crisp over all features save for a few of the obverse star centrals, and there are no sizeable or individually mentionable abrasions. While more frequently offered than its similarly dated No Motto counterpart, the 1866-S Motto is a conditionally challenging issue despite a respectable original mintage of 994,000 pieces.

PCGS# 6317.



2369 1867 Breen-4936. MS-63 (NGC). Mint State representatives of this 449,952-piece delivery are not uncommon with any degree of regularity in today's market. This is a lovely example with full mint bloom and hints of modest brightness in the fields. Sharply struck with dominant champagne-gray tinting and rippled olive-blue fluorescence around the peripheries. One or two scattered abrasions are noted, none of which are worthy of undue concern.

NGC Census 1: 10 finer.

PCGS# 6318.

Purchased from Long Leavens on July 25, 1988

2370 1867-S Breen-4938. AU-58 (NGC). Warm olive-gold patina envelops both sides and confirms the originality of this still mostly lustrous AU example. A few streaks of russet tinting are also noted, particularly on the reverse, but we are unable to locate a single abrasion of note. This is the first S-mint Half since 1862 with an original mintage of more than 1 million coins, and it is an important issue for Motto type purposes.

PCGS# 6319.

Ex: Heritage National Auctions, January 2001, Lot 118

2371 1868-Breen-4941. MS-60. This is a slightly worn example with scattered hairlines that point to a volatile old cleaning. Bluish-colored peripheral iridescence on the obverse, as well as champagne-apricot tinting at the reverse border, help to offset the impairment. This is a lower mintage P-mint issue with a modest mintage delivery of fewer than 418,000 coins.

PCGS# 6320.

Purchased at the ANA on July 29, 1989

2372 1868-S Breen-4944. AU-55 (NGC). Richly toned in lavender-gray shades with splashes of russet patination in select obverse peripheral areas. All features are boldly if not sharply struck, and there are uncommonly few abrasions for an S-mint Half Dollar that saw actual use in commerce. A pleasing Choice AU representative for the collector who appreciates originality.

PCGS# 6321.

Ex: Coin Galleries, April 10, 1985, Lot 1513



2373 1869 Breen-4946, MS-63 (PCGS). The 1869-^{CC} 65,000 pieces produced by the new Philadelphia Mint have that is seldom encountered in today's Mint State. Bright surfaces, blue/purple highlights are seen at direct angles, the outward appearance being one of even, often uniform toning. The underlying frost is not just the device and design imposed from dies, but also numerous fine, distracting abrasions. One of the more important First Year Half Dollars in this sale, and a coin that would make most collectors quite content.

See "Breen" & "1869-CC"

PCGS

Ex: H. E. H. Miller Collection, John W. Brumley Collection, J. C. C.



2374 1869-S Breen-4947, MS-61 (NGC). As the obverse and reverse, Seated Liberty of the 1869-S mint, accented with goldish-green frost about the rim. The surfaces of the present (1869-S) specimen feature numerous bright and frosty abrasions, mostly coming from contact with a highpointed ruler over the dies. All but a few remain round the upper obverse and lower reverse border, considerably rougher and more linear appearing than would normally occur from 100 years' worth of normal mintage operations.

See "Breen" & "1869-S"

NGC

Ex: "Great American Money" Collection



2375 1870 Breen-4949, MS-63 (NGC). In 1870, the Philadelphia Mint produced 65,900 Half Dollars, a considerable quantity for the time. Today, however, these coins are very difficult to acquire, particularly in the fine Mint State grades. Full frost surfaces sound sharply brought up devices. Both sides are virtually untouched with none but the smallest abrasions. In sum, this is a wonderfully choice example of this scarce, conditionally challenging issue.

Note: has scratch below Liberty's right (facing) elbow - inadvertently released from the die due to excessive polishing.

Redlin grading services have seen just seven 1870-CC Halves at all levels of MS presentation, and there is only one MS-62 (PCGS.com file).

PCGS

Ex: Coin Galleries July 17, 1991 Lot 2942

Outstanding 1870-CC Half Dollar

AU-50 PCGS
First Year of Carson City
Mint Operations



2376 1870-CC Breen-4955, AU-50 (PCGS). Although construction on the Carson City Mint commenced in 1866, the facility was not completed until the end of 1869. Numerous delays due to funding problems and shortages of materials, as well as severe winter weather, caused the project to take longer than initially expected. On January 6, 1870, the Mint officially opened its doors, the first bullion deposits arriving almost immediately. The first coins struck were Silver Dollars (February 11, 1870), followed by Eagles (February 14, 1870), Half Eagles (March 2, 1870), and Double Eagles (March 1870). On April 9 of that same year, the Nevada branch mint delivered its first batch of 2,000 Seated Liberty Half Dollars. By year's end, only 54,617 examples of this denomination had been produced. Today, the 1870-CC is widely regarded as a key to the Seated Half Dollar series. Examples are seldom offered in any grade, and if they are, the surfaces are apt to be extensively worn or plagued by some kind of problem. We have handled precious few About Uncirculated "0-CC" Halves over the years, and hardly any with features as desirable as those of the present example. Both sides are veiled in dove-gray patina that yields to champagne-lilac undertones as the surfaces dip into a light. As evidenced by the ample remaining definition, both sides were sharply struck from the dies. A little light highpoint ruler is noted, but outwardly noticeable distractions are few and far between. An abrasion over Liberty's right (facing) elbow, as well as another in the right obverse field that parallels the shin, should help trace the pedigree of this important coin.

The extra drapes below Liberty's right (facing) elbow was inadvertently released from the die due to excessive polishing.

Redlin grading services have seen just seven 1870-CC Halves at all levels of MS presentation, and there is only one MS-62 (PCGS.com file).

PCGS

Purchased from Jonathan Kern



2377 1870-S Breen-4952. MS-60 (NGC). The popular 1870-S Half Dollar is not a major rarity like some other 1870-S coinage issues, but it is still extremely difficult to locate in any Mint State grade. Soft, flowing, frosty textured luster accented bold-to-sharp striking detail. Both sides are tan-gray in tone with splashes of olive-russet patina in select peripheral areas. There are no outwardly distracting abrasions—an uncommon feature for a Half Dollar at the MS-60 level.

NGC Census lists just five coins in all Mint State grades.

PCGS# 6329.

Purchased from Mike Graham on February 17, 1985

2378 1871 Breen-4956. AU-58 (NGC). The otherwise lilac-gray patina assumes a slight sandy-olive cast in a few border areas. Both sides are actually original with sharply impressed devices and a noteworthy lack of singularly mentionable abrasions.

PCGS# 6330.

Ex: Coin Galleries, April 14, 1982, Lot 2349



2379 1871-CC Breen-4963. AU-55. There is very little wear on either side of this coin, but the obverse is curiously lackluster for the Choice AU level with a muted, pewter-gray sheen. We do not, however, see any hairlines per say on that side (nor on the reverse, for that matter), but still suspect perhaps an old cleaning. Both sides are free of sizeable abrasions, the reverse with pleasing remnants of mint luster in the more protected areas around the devices. A sharply struck example with uncommonly little wear for a survivor of this issue.

The 1871-CC is the second CC-mint Half Dollar in U.S. coinage history. The original mintage (153,950 pieces) is greater than that of the 1870-CC and, while the '71-CC is more easily obtainable, it is a rare coin in its own right with most of the few extant examples displaying heavy wear.

This is a very interesting coin in that it is accompanied by a metallurgical analysis performed by Ledoux and Company of Teaneck, New Jersey. This test was performed at the request of NGC, and the results are dated November 18, 2003. According to the analysis, the coin's composition is 97.4% silver, 2.3% copper, and 0.2% nickel. Per the Mint Act of January 18, 1837, the Half Dollar was supposed to have a composition of 90% silver, 10% copper. The only way we can explain the present coin's composition of 97.4% silver and 2.3% copper, as well as the presence of nickel, is that must have been struck from pure Comstock "silver." During the years 1870-1873, the Carson City Mint was known to shorten the annealing process by using Comstock silver instead of a 90% silver, 10% copper alloy for the planchets. This is perhaps understandable given the political

atmosphere of the time: the facility was under intense pressure to strike as many coins as possible, thereby proving its worth to the federal government and countering the arguments of its numerous detractors who continually argued that the Mint should be closed. Of course, the use of pure Comstock silver was illegal, and this practice was almost certainly discovered by the annual Assay Commission. The superintendent of the Carson City Mint from late 1870 through May 1873 was H.F. Rice, who was forced to resign in the latter year after the discovery of some debased coins dated 1872-CC and 1873-CC. We suspect, although cannot conclusively prove, that the use of pure Comstock silver as confirmed by the Assay Commission was also a contributing factor to Rice's removal. The greatest problem with this practice as far as today's collectors are concerned, however, is that coins struck from a composition such as that of the present Half Dollar simply did not hold up well in circulation. The federal government allowed silver with copper in the first place to increase the coin's durability since pure (or nearly pure) silver wore down quicker and was more susceptible to damage and corrosion. Hence of pure Comstock silver which the composition of this coin seems to prove conclusively, helps to explain why CC-mint issues of the 1870-1873 era are so difficult to locate at high and/or problem-free levels of preservation.

PCGS# 6331

Purchased from Mike Graham on October 18, 1985

2380 1871-S Breen-4961. Small, Broad S. MS-61 (NGC). This golden ringed example is awash in swirling frosty luster. All design elements save for one or two obverse stars are sharply impressed, and the number of wispy abrasions is well within the context of the MS-61 grade level. A pleasing BU representative of the Motto type.

PCGS# 6332

Purchased from Alpine Numismatics on January 28, 1991

2381 1872 Breen-4964. AU-58 (NGC). This tawny-h-gray example is problem-free for the grade with no singularly mentionable abrasions. The devices are minimally worn with ample evidence of a sharp strike throughout.

PCGS# 6333

Purchased from Eastern Coin Exchange, Inc.



2382 1872-CC Breen-4968. AU-53 (NGC). Half Dollar production in Carson City ratcheted up to 257,000 pieces in 1872. This total is greater than that of the 1870 CC and 1871 CC deliveries. Jim Breen (1988) speculates that some undistributed examples may have been melted in the Mint after April 1873. Scarce, if not rare in all grades, the 1872-CC is typically offered well worn and/or with problems. The present example, on the other hand, is free of all but light high-point rub with considerable remnants of the original finish. Both sides are warmly toned in apricot-gray shades with a well balanced, minimally abraded appearance. Yet another highlight of the extensive CC-mint silver offerings in this sale.

PCGS# 6334

Purchased from Kam Alwad on September 22, 1982

2383 1872-S Breen-4966. Small, Broad S. AU-55 (NGC). Muted olive russet patina drifts toward the rims, particularly on the obverse, the balance of the surfaces exhibiting soft silver-gray toning. A sharply struck example with no noteworthy abrasions and most of the original, flowing, textured ligatures.

PCGS 65 MS

Ex-Golden State Collection, Ex-Stacks Jan 1992

2384 1873 Breen-4969. No Arrows. Closed 3. AU-55 (NGC). Richly toned in forest-green shades, this sharply impressed coin displays attractive muted violet-silver-gray peripheral blue and lime midtones with a copper-like sheen. Several arrows are visible, but we note that this date is rarely or individually followed. This issue poses particular difficulties to locate in standard grades (although the example we grade AU-55 is well above average) among all of our 1873-1875 issues under condition was diminished before the Act of February 12, 1875, passed, this series no longer made standard branch coinage.

PCGS 65 MS

Ex-Golden State Collection, Ex-Stacks Jan 1992

Seldom Offered Mint State 1873-CC No Arrows Half Dollar A Rare Survivor From an Extensively Melted Issue



2385 1873-CC Breen-4976 No Arrows. MS-62 (NGC). Like the small and large Dimes and Quarter dollars, the 1873-CC No Arrows Half Dollar is a rare in its grade. Unlike the Dimes and Quarters, however, the Half Dollar appears to have been considerably less circulation-worn in 1873, although no doubt inferior to all of the 125,500 pieces delivered into the Mint before passage of the Infamous Crime of '73. These come off the stand after the Mint Act because the date arrow seriously faded. As such, one 1873-CC "No Arrows" Half-Dollar is surely worthy to be considered a rare coin, and Mint State examples are even rarer.

Wears of erosion and champagne mottling, just over subsoil on silver-tinged surfaces. The strike is impressively sharp with virtually all features displaying complete definition. There is not an excessive number of abrasions for the designated grade but a reverse scare below the eagle's neck is mentioned (possibly for pedigree purposes). An important bidding opportunity for the advanced specialist and a coin that will be one of the focal points of a fine collection.

Combined NGC and PCGS population: Obverse: 1; Reverse: 1; Some grading errors of which most happen merely from rounding off. Estimate: \$10,000-\$12,000.

PCGS 65 MS

2386 1873 Breen-4975. Arrows. Doubled Die Obverse. AU-58 (NGC). The otherwise apricot-gray toning scheme yields a unique violet-blue patination around the obverse periphery. This well-struck example is minimally worn with no abrasions that are worthy of much concern. An ever-popular issue among type collectors, die 1873-3 is the prettier Arrow Motto Seated Half from the Philadelphia Mint.

Ex-Stacks Jan 1992

Ex-Torrey Fund Numismatic Fund, lot 572



2387 1873-CC Breen-4980. Arrows. Tall CC. AU-58 (NGC). Dappled coloration and orange russet peripheral shading frame otherwise pale, unaged surfaces. This partially lustrous example displays near sharp definition throughout despite a light bit of trivial Neapolis rub. Not only are the surfaces uncommonly free of wear for the grade, but they are pleasingly silent on the subject of appreciable abrasions. As one of only two CC-mint deliveries in the 1873-1875 Arrows Half-Dollar series, the 1873-CC is a popular coin among collectors. It is also a scarce-to-rare issue in all grades (with only of the 215,500 pieces produced having been lost to circulation).

PCGS 65 MS

PCGS 65 MS

Ex-Jim K. Avery, Abing Collection (Harrington, Indiana), 1986, lot 873



2388 1873-8 Breen-4978. Arrows. Minute S. AU-58 (NGC). Although overshadowed by the CC mint issues of 1873-1874 among casual collectors, specialists in Seated coinage know that the 1873-8 and 1874-8 can be equally as difficult to locate in high (AU Mint State) grades. The present example was retrieved from circulation after acquiring only minimal highpoint rub and no sizeable or individually mentionable abrasions. Pleasingly lustrous for the grade with warm blue-silver patination.

PCGS 65 MS

Ex-Golden State Collection

2389 1874 Breen-4981. Arrows. AU-58 (NGC). Whereas the reverse is silver-gray in sheen, the obverse is more deeply toned in lavender-gray shades with electric blue undertones clinging to the denticles. Both sides are equally crisp in detail with a noteworthy lack of individually conspicuous abrasions.

PCGS 65 MS

Ex-Stacks Jan 19-20, 1991, lot 361

Low Mintage 1874-CC Half Dollar Rarity Remarkable Mint State Preservation



2390 1874-CC Breen-4988. Arrows. MS-61 (NGC). The Carson City Mint stepped up gold coin production in 1874, a move that seems to have adversely affected the facility's ability to turn out a respectable number of silver coins. No Quarters were struck in Carson City in 1874, and only 10,817 Dimes and 59,000 Halves were produced. The '74-CC Arrows Half Dollar has long been recognized as a rarity at all levels of preservation. This issue is seldom offered in problem-free AU, and Mint State survivors are the province of the most advanced specialists. A bidding opportunity that is surely not soon to be repeated, this attractively original example is peripherally toned in electric-blue shades. The centers exhibit more-or-less even lilac-gray patination, and all areas are possessed of sharp striking definition. The overall smooth look to the surfaces is suggestive of a higher grade; and we are unable to locate even a single worthwhile pedigree marker. This is the first Mint State 1874-CC Half that we have offered in five years, and we recommend that interested bidders prepare strong bids for when this coin crosses the auction block.

One of only 14 Mint State examples known to NGC (PCGS has seen an additional nine coins in the various Uncirculated grades).

PCGS# 6347.

Ex: The S. Benton Emery and Walter P. Nichols Collections (Bowers and Merena, November 12 - 13, 1984), Lot 769



2391 1874-S Breen-4985. Arrows, Small, Broad S. MS-61 (NGC). Another conditionally rare offering from the San Francisco Mint, this '74-S Arrows is untoned save for a little bit of dappled olive-russet shading at the lower obverse periphery. Softly frosted with swirling luster effects, there are no more than the expected number of wispy abrasions for the assigned grade. One of 394,000 pieces produced, AU-Mint State survivors of which are rarer than the original mintage might suggest.

NGC Census 1; with 19 finer.

PCGS# 6348.

Purchased from Alpine Numismatics on June 11, 1990

2392 1875 Breen-4989. AU-55 (NGC). Apricot, lilac, and cobalt-blue colors highlight the otherwise antique copper obverse. The reverse, on the other hand, is brilliant save for delicate champagne-apricot iridescence at the denticles. A sharply impressed, solidly graded Choice AU example. According to Breen (1988), the large mintage of '75-P Halves was meant to retire Fifty Cent fractional currency notes.

PCGS# 6349.

Purchased from Doug Weaver on April 16, 1982

2393 1875-CC Breen-4995. Small CC. AU-58 (PCGS). The 1875-CC (1 million coins produced) is the scarcest of the three "common" CC-mint Halves produced from 1875-1877. Champagne tinged with vibrant, frosty luster, both sides are nearly full in striking definition. Minimally abraded for the grade with eye appeal to spare.

PCGS# 6350.

Ex: The Roy Harter Collection (Part III) (Bowers and Rudds, January 25 - 27, 1983), Lot 188

2394 1875-S Breen-4992. Tall, Narrow S. AU-58 (NGC). The otherwise untoned surfaces exhibit a blush of copper iridescence at the right reverse rim. With virtually fully intact, frosty textured luster and sharply impressed features, this lightly abraded example would fit comfortably into any near-Mint type set.

PCGS# 6351.

Ex: Cam Gallerie, July 24, 1982, Lot 962

2395 1876 Breen-4997. Type I Reverse. MS-61 (NGC). Frosty luster swirls around both sides and accent impressively sharp devices. This peripherally toned example is perhaps hampered in grade by a peppering of mostly small abrasions on the obverse. Philadelphia Mint Half Dollar production remained strong through 1876, with 8.4 million coins delivered.

PCGS# 6352.

Purchased from Mike Carlson via Mail, 12/1/1986

2396 1876-CC Breen-5004. Small CC. MS-61 (NGC). A coin that should be of obvious importance to Mint State Carson City type collectors, this satiny example is awash in rich lavender-gray and olive-russet shades. Crispily impressed with no outwardly distracting marks.

PCGS# 6353.

Purchased from Fairfield Coins on August 11, 1989

2397 1876-S Breen-4999. Type I Reverse. Small S. AU-55 (NGC). Much of the original finish remains, the fields radiating modest brightness as the coin dips into a light. Both sides are overlaid in delicate pastel-toned iridescence with sharp striking detail world throughout. A problem free Choice AU type candidate from the California branch mint.

PCGS# 6354.

Ex: Cam Gallerie, April 14, 1982, Lot 2360

2398 1877 Breen-5008. Type II Reverse. MS-62 (PCGS). The otherwise lavender-gray surfaces exhibit some cobalt blue highlights at the denticles. There are no outwardly noticeable abrasions, but somewhat subdued luster probably accounts for the BU designation. Boldly, if not sharply struck in all areas.

PCGS# 6355.

Purchased from New World Rarities on August 12, 1992

2399 1877-CC Breen-5021. Type II Reverse. Small CC. AU-58 (NGC). Delicately patinated in golden iridescence, this mostly frosty, frosty example displays sharp striking detail in all areas. Some wispy abrasions are noted, as are clashmarks (as produced) in the fields around Liberty's portrait and the reverse eagle.

PCGS# 6356.

Purchased from Alstate Coins on August 18, 1988

2400 1877-S Breen-5009, Type I Reverse, Small S, AU-55 (NGC). Deeply set steel-gray toning envelops both sides with some sandy-tan patina outlining the devices. A sharp, minimally worn example for the high grade circulated type collector who appreciates originality.

PCGS# 6388

Purchased from Numi Palms

2401 1878 Breen-5023, MS-61 (PCGS). This year marks the last in which the Philadelphia Mint produced coins over 1 million Half Dollars of the Seated Liberty-type. The present representative specimen with frosty luster is nicely accented by light *éclat de métal* (champagne silver plating). One or two strands of deeper color are visible, but we are hardly justified in describing it as

PCGS# 6389

Bought from Andie's Auctions, Figure 7-1097

2402 1878-C Breen-5025, AU-50. The Seated Liberty Half Dollars of 1878-C (1878) followed the reform movement to produce silver from the remaining 30% of the total minted. It is all too fitting that the last known of the 1878-C would be an older sister of the Morgan Era. In order to accommodate production of the new Carson City Mint Silver Half Dollars, production also (partially) moved back to Philadelphia. Not surprisingly, this last known would be among the finest known.

Today the final issue 1878-C is a solid and high grade survivor with a Somewhat muted and lighter Gray-Mauve toning. One of the most remarkable survivors, but the obverse has handset, both sides are mostly engraved in raised relief, giving them a pale lavender and metallic blue indension to some degree right. The surfaces are polished but retain the contrast of the AU grade break them being more like a few mostly small and minor abrasions. Sharply struck throughout with only the lightest wear from a dies wear in so young. The obverse shows complete or 99% toning in very light lavender shades. I don't see any — a strong (but very subtle) copper color (the positive aspect) in desirability of this important CC-mint. That

PCGS# 6390

Ex. The Adelphi Sale - Stack's, March 21-22, 1987, Lot 784

Key Date 1878-S Seated Liberty Half

MS-63 PCGS

The Breen Plate Coin



2403 1878-S Breen-5024, MS-63 (PCGS). Like the 1878-C, the 1878-S Half owe their present-day rarity to an early halt in production so that the San Francisco Mint could switch over the newly renovated Silver Dollar. The 78-S is actually considerably rarer than the 78-C with perhaps just a few dozen examples believed extant from an original mintage of 12,000 coins. As such, the 1878-S is probably the last issue acquired by date collectors, if they are able to obtain an example at all. Even low grade coins do not remain on the market for long, and Mint State pieces are of the *camisole variety* with Breen (1985) estimating that no more than six of the survivors qualify for that designation.

Fully profiled to finish this Choice quality representative is awash in delicate champagne apricot iridescence that deepens a bit at the denudes. There are no ill-defined features and a few scattered abrasions hardly inhibit the exquisite coin appeal. Pedigree concerns alone compel us to mention a small abrasion on Liberty's right (face) leg below the knee. A gorgeous Seated Half Dollar irrespective of date and clearly among the highlights of this important series.

Ex. 1878-S San Francisco Calico Saloon (a unique camp community) in California. From auction record.

Ex. The Adelphi Sale - Stack's, March 21-22, 1987, Lot 784

PCGS# 6391

Ex. The Adelphi Sale - Stack's, March 21-22, 1987, Lot 784

2404 1879 Breen-5027, Type II Reverse, AU-58 (NGC). From 1879 through the end of the Seated series in 1891, the Philadelphia Mint was the sole producer of Half Dollars. Mintage were limited, the field apparently concentrating on Silver Dollar production. The otherwise olive-gold obverse exhibits rich charcoal and lavender toning at the lower border. The reverse is equally original, yet toned in even dove-gray hues. We have no complaints about the strike, all features retaining crisp definition with only minimal highpoint friction.

PCGS# 6392

2405 1880 Breen-5029, Type II Reverse, AU-55 (NGC). Dominant steel gray toning confirms the originality of this sharp, minimally worn representative. A small area of dark coloration on the reverse below the ER in AMERICA is noted. One of just 9,755 Halves produced in 1880, survivors of which are typically either proofs or prooflike Mint State.

PCGS# 6393

Purchased from Independence Coin and Stamp on November 19, 1980

2406 1881 Breen-5031, Type II Reverse, AU-55 (NGC). This slate-gray representative is as sharply struck as one should expect for a P-mint issue with just 10,000 business strikes produced. The surfaces are a bit scuffy from light circulation, but there are no singularly distracting abrasions.

PCGS# 6395

Ex. Harman Rooker Numismatist Ltd., Lot 376



2407 1882 Breen-5032. MS-63 (PCGS). The otherwise rich endowment of mint frost thins to modest brightness in the reverse field. Both sides are toned in lavender-gray shades with vivid apricot, champagne, and lilac undertones. A smartly impressed representative of this important 5,500-coin delivery with a lone reeding mark of no note in the left reverse field.

PCGS# 6364.

Purchased from Scott Marshall on September 14, 1991

2408 1883 Breen-5033. AU-55 (NGC). One of just 8,000 business strike Half Dollars produced in 1883, this minimally circulated example reveals more vivid undertones beneath a rich endowment of medium gray toning. Neither the striking detail nor the surface preservation are worthy of criticism.

CGS# 6365.

2409 1884 Breen-5034. Proof-58 (PCGS). A slightly impaired proof, both sides possess remnants of the original finish with hints of reflectivity seen in the fields at more direct angles. Otherwise silver-gray in sheen with mottled olive-russet shadings that are more widely distributed on the reverse. Combined business strike and proof Half Dollar production amounted to just 5,275 pieces in 1884, all of which were struck in the Philadelphia Mint.

PCGS# 6366.

2410 1885 Breen-5035. MS-60. Prooflike in finish, the surfaces are untoned save for peripheral shadings in either olive-charcoal (obverse) or reddish-apricot (reverse) colors. Both sides are overall sharp in strike with a plethora of wispy hairlines and abrasions. Produced in limited numbers.

PCGS# 6367.

Ex: Coin Galleries, April 14, 1982, Lot 2363



2411 1886 Breen-5036. MS-64 (PCGS). This is a wonderful example from the final era of the Seated Liberty design type. All Half Dollars from this decade have extremely low mintages (in this instance just 5,000 coins) with Mint State examples being quite scarce. Keep in mind the total production when searching for examples of these last few years. From 1879 through 1890 inclusive, the Philadelphia Mint produced less than 100,000 Half Dollars!

This gorgeous, prooflike representative displays sharp devices set atop shimmering, watery fields. Delicate champagne and apricot iridescence is seen at the borders, but there are no grade-limiting abrasions in evidence. Solidly graded at the near-Gem level.

PCGS# 6368.

Purchased from Delaware Valley Rare Coin on June 3, 1999

2412 1887 Breen-5037. AU-58 (NGC). Another very difficult date to locate in any grade, although Proof examples are relatively plentiful in the market; for the specialist seeking an attractive circulation strike of this issue, the present offering provides a splendid opportunity. Both sides are predominantly lustrous with rich, mottled toning in crimson russet, orange-apricot, and cobalt-blue colors. Problem-free for the grade with no singularly reportable abrasions.

PCGS# 6369.

Purchased from Mike Graham on August 2, 1985

2413 1888 Breen-5038. AL-58 (NGC). This interestingly yet originally toned example is predominantly blue-gray in sheen. There are, however, intermingled swirls of gold and lilac colors over the sharply impressed features. Minimally worn with no mentionable abrasions and clashmarks (as seen in the fields). Original mintage: 12,001 business strikes and 832 proof.

PCGS# 6370.

Ex: The Harry N. Green Collection (Brown and Moyer, April 1985), Lot 205



2414 1889 Breen-5039. MS-65 (NGC). The silky smooth surfaces are bursting with rich, swirling frosty mint luster. Untoned, the surfaces are framed in warm champagne apricot iridescence that speaks volumes about this coin's originality. A solidly graded Gem with perfectly impressed features and a noteworthy lack of distracting abrasions. One of just 12,000 business strikes prepared.

NGC Census (2nd Quarter 2018):

PCGS# 6371.

Ex: The Whitney P. Sanderford Collection (Brown and Moyer, 1985), Lot 556

2415 1890 Breen-5040. MS-62 (PCGS). Brilliant mint frost radiates through a blanket of champagne steel iridescence. Both sides are frosty in sheen with mainly impressed devices and a relative lack of distracting abrasions for the designated grade. The 1890 is the final Seated Half Dollar issue of the 1879-1891 era with a business strike mintage of (significantly) fewer than 100,000 coins!

PCGS# 6372.

Ex: Bowers and Merena, October 5, 1988, Lot 301

2416 1891 Breen-5041. AU-58 (NGC). This example from 1891 is richly toned in blue-gray shades that appear to deepen in shade toward the borders. With a sharp strike, ample remaining luster, and no mentionable abrasions, this coin should be of obvious importance to type collectors.

PCGS# 6373.

Ex: The Lee Collection and the Peter L. Shaffer Collection (Superior Galleries, September 25-27, 1988), Lot 1551

GOBRECHT DOLLARS

1836 Name Below Base Gobrecht Dollar in PR-64

Judd-58, A Classic Numismatic Rarity



2417 1836 Judd-58 Restrike, Pollock-61, Rarity-6-, Name Below Base, Proof-64 (PCGS). Silver. Plain edge. Die Alignment IV. The original idea for what developed into the Seated Liberty design originated with Mint Director Dr. Robert Maskell Patterson during the mid 1830s. Impressed by the seated figure of Britannia then current on certain English coins, Patterson hired noted artists Thomas Sully and Titian Peale to prepare sketches for the pending resumption of Silver Dollar coinage. Once the final drawings for both the obverse and the reverse had been selected, the job of executing dies was given to Christian Gobrecht, who had succeeded William Knass as Second Engraver of the Mint in 1835 after the latter suffered a debilitating stroke.

Gobrecht's original obverse loosely followed Sully's work. It depicts a representation of Liberty seated right, her head turned back to the left. Liberty's left (living) hand supports a shield over which a ribbon inscribed LIBERTY is draped. Her right (dead) hand supports a Liberty pole. The stars that for decades had been arranged around the border of U.S. silver coins are omitted, the only peripheral device being the date below the rock upon Liberty is seated. For the reverse, Gobrecht utilized a drawing by Titian Peale that in turn had been based upon the Mint's pet eagle "Old Pete." The final design displays a majestic eagle flying left in a field of stars, one for each state of the Union if one includes Michigan's 1837 admission. The legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and denomination ONE DOLLAR are arranged around the border. To mark his work, Gobrecht signed his name in the obverse field between Liberty's rock and the date as C. GOBRECHT FECIT, the F standing for the Latin word fecit, or "made it."

According to both Adams-Woodin and Judd, the Mint prepared 18 examples of Gobrecht's original Silver Dollar, probably either in November or December of 1836. Apparently, the presence of Gobrecht's name so prominently in the obverse field offended many critics, because the engraver was forced to prepare a new die that moved the inscription C. GOBRECHT FECIT to the base of Liberty's rock. (When the Mint prepared 1838 and 1839-dated dies, it omitted this inscription entirely.)

The fate of the 18 original Name Below Base Gobrecht Dollars remains a mystery. These coins, designated Judd-58, would most likely have been struck in Die Alignment I (coin turn with the eagle flying onward and upward) with perfect dies. To date, however, not a single example of Judd-58 in Die Alignment I has surfaced. The absence of a representative in the Smithsonian Institution's National Numismatic Collection leads us to conclude that the coins, if indeed they were actually struck, were probably melted in the Mint after Gobrecht engraved the new Name on Base obverse.

The Name Below Base die, however, was retained by the Mint, and it remained accessible until locked away by then-Mint Director Colonel James Ross Snowden in July of 1860. This die was probably retrieved during Henry R. Linderman's first term as Mint Director (1867-1869). With the increase in numismatic interest during the late 1850s, collectors began to clamor for examples of certain rare issues from the Mint's earlier years of operation. One of these rarities was the 1836 Name Below Base Gobrecht Dollar. We believe that either in 1858-1860, 1867-1869, or both, Mint personnel utilized the original Name Below Base Gobrecht Dollar dies to prepare an unknown, although presumably limited number of restrikes for distribution to collectors. Unlike the as yet unconfirmed originals, these restrikes of Judd-

58 were struck in either Die Alignment III or Die Alignment IV from a cracked reverse die.

Today, the only examples of the 1836 Judd-58 Name Below Base Gobrecht Dollar available to collectors are restrikes. The present example has actually been attributed as an "Original" on the PCGS insert, but we believe that it is a restrike because of the die alignment and the presence of the following hairline cracks on the reverse:

1. Top of UNITED STATES O in the legend, which actually runs through the last four letters slightly below the top.
2. Bottom of OILLA in the denomination.

The weight of this coin, which we do not know, would help to confirm its status as an original or restrike. An original would be struck on a planchet prepared to the 416-grain standard, while a restrike would weigh within the legal tolerance of the 412.5-grain standard. Liberty's head is opposite the F in OF when the coin is rotated around its vertical axis.

Both sides of this important specimen are originally toned in mottled slate-gray and reddish-russet patina with a few splashes of sandy-tan color toward the upper obverse and right reverse borders. Sharply struck with needle sharp delineation between all features. There are no outwardly distracting contact marks, as one should expect for the grade, but pedigree concerns compel us to mention a tiny obverse graze over and below the lowest part of the Liberty cap. Were it not for restrikes such as this, the Judd-58 Name Below Base variant of the Gobrecht Dollar would be unobtainable in today's numismatic market. Of course, the restrikes themselves are exceedingly rare with only 15 examples of Judd-58 certified by PCGS in all grades. NGC has seen a further five specimens. Clearly, this is an important opportunity for the Silver Dollar specialist to acquire a high grade representative of a classic numismatic rarity.

Popular 1836 Name on Base Gobrecht Dollar

Judd-60 Original, Die Alignment I
Struck in December 1836



2418 1836 Judd-60 Original, Pollock-65, Name on Base, Proof-61 (NGC). Silver. Plain Edge. Die Alignment I. The 1,000 Name on Base Judd-60, Die Alignment I Gobrecht Dollars that were struck in December 1836 were divided into two separate groups and intended for two separate purposes. Although prepared with a proof finish and struck with plain edges, all of these coins, as well as the 600 1836 dated examples delivered in March 1837 and the 300 pieces struck in 1839, are rightfully considered circulation strikes. The initial delivery of December 1836 amounted to 400 coins, most of which were retained at the Mint for presentation or other special purposes. Survivors are generally in high grades, though if not all of them do not display a tiny reverse die scratch in the field above the eagle's right wing that points to the M in STATES. The second group run of 600 coins, also delivered in December 1836, were distributed into circulation through a local Philadelphia bank. Apparently, the coins accidentally scratched the reverse die in the aforementioned location before these 600 pieces were struck. Due to their use in commercial channels, survivors of the second 600-coin delivery are typically found in lower grades.

This coin does not display a reverse die scratch in the field above the eagle's right wing, indicating that it may have been one of the first 400 Name on Base Gobrecht Dollars prepared in 1836. (We note, however, that some inadequately struck and/or well worn examples of this variety do not display the reverse crack, for obvious reasons.) The surfaces are free of just a few scattered contact marks, but the original finish is a bit too standard beneath charcoal-gray toning to warrant a higher grade. Sharply struck over all features with the exception of a few of the highest relief features on the eagle's breast and left wing. As the first Silver Dollar produced for circulation since 1804 (when 1801-, 1802-, and 1803-dated Draped Bust examples were struck), the 1836 Name on Base Judd-60 Original is a historically significant issue, a representative of which must be included for a U.S. coin type set to be considered complete.

An interesting aspect about the design of the 1836 Gobrecht Dollar regards the number of stars in the reverse field. Each of the 26 stars was intended to represent a different state of the Union. At the end of 1836, however, there were only 25 states with Arkansas admitted on June 15, 1836. While the intentions were to have Michigan become a state in 1836, with its constitution approved, state officers elected, and application made, the territory did not actually become the 26th state until January 26, 1847. The idea was to cause some confusion in the public in which both Ohio and Michigan claimed possession of Toledo. Finally, Congress awarded Toledo to the state of Ohio, while Michigan gained the upper peninsula, which proved valuable for its iron and copper.

PCGS# 11225.

Ex: Mid-American Rare Coin Auctions, January 3 - 4, 1986, Lot 1812

1836 Name on Base Judd-60 Gobrecht Dollar in PR-55

Die Alignment IV
From the March 1837 Delivery



2419 1836 Judd-60 (Second) Original; Pollock-65, Name on Base, Proof-55 (NGC). Silver. Plain Edge. Die Alignment IV. Second Delivery to the Mint of March 1837. For years numismatic scholars have thought that examples of the Judd-60 Gobrecht Dollars in Die Alignment IV were restrikes from circa 1858 or later. Thanks to exhaustive research being done on the complex series by Michael Carboneau and James Gray, however, we now know that all Judd-60 Gobrecht Dollars with medal turn were prepared as 600 pieces delivered to the Philadelphia Mint on March 31, 1837*. (The date of the record indicates that the coins were struck during the final week of that month.) Actually, Mint personnel originally set the dies for this proof run in die alignment IV. Die Alignment II, with medal turn and the eagle flying onward and upward. One of the dies, however, was severely ruined during striking with the result that the 600 coins struck actually display one of four alignments:

1. Die Alignment II, with medal turn and the eagle flying onward and upward.
2. Die Alignment II-A, with medal turn and the eagle flying just short of onward and upward.
3. Die Alignment IV-A, with medal turn and the eagle flying just short of level.

4. Die Alignment IV, with medal turn and the eagle flying level. Perhaps 400 pieces of the 600 coins struck display the final configuration, Die Alignment IV.

To further complicate the subject of Judd-60 Gobrecht Dollars with medal turn, examples are known on planchets prepared to meet the criteria of two different weight standards, the 416-grain standard that was used for the Judd-60, Die Alignment I coins of December 1836 and remained legal through the first two weeks of 1837, and the 412.5-grain standard as mandated by the Act of January 18, 1837*. It is likely that, rather than destroy any remaining 416-grain planchets, the Mint simply used them alongside the lighter ones until there were none left. Since Carboneau and Gray report seeing examples of Die Alignments II and IV, as well as the intermediate states II-A and IV-A, struck on both 416-grain and 412.5-grain planchets, we cannot simply assume that the coin in this lot weighs closer to one standard as opposed to the other. For more on the 1836 Judd-60 Gobrecht Dollars struck in Die Alignments II, II-A, IV-A, and IV, see our 1997 catalog of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, as well as Volume 27, Issue #79 of the Gobrecht Journal.

This coin was struck in die alignment IV with the eagle flying level, if not perhaps just shy of it, when the coin is rotated around the vertical axis (i.e., medal turn). Liberty's head is opposite the O in OF. As with most examples of Judd-60 prepared in March 1837*, this coin entered circulation, although it was subsequently retrieved after a very short time. As such, the devices display only light rub across the highpoints, and not all that many contact marks. Those abrasions that are present are mostly small in size and not worthy of individual mention. Evenly toned in silver-gray shades with some mottled olive-russet tinting in select areas around the reverse periphery.

*PCGS#1122

Purchased from Jonathan Kern at the 1987 Myrtle Beach ANA.

**Beautifully Toned
1839 Judd-104 Gobrecht Dollar
Impressive PR-64 PCGS Preservation
Die Alignment IV**



2420 1839 Judd-104 Original, Pollock-116. Rarity-3. Name Omitted. Proof-64 (PCGS). Silver. Reeded edge. Die Alignment IV. This is a mysterious coin from the standpoint of attribution. Although Breen (1988) reports that 1839 Judd-104 Gobrecht Dollars struck in Die Alignment I are originals produced in December of that year, more current research conducted by Mike Carboneau, James Gray, and others suggest that this assessment is incorrect. We now believe that the original 1839 Judd-104 Dollars were struck in Die Alignment IV. Since restrikes of this variety were also prepared with the same die alignment, we are left with the problem of how to conclusively differentiate those pieces from the originals. The present near-Gem is mounted in a PCGS slab whose insert labels it as an "Original." When we contacted PCGS about this coin during the catalog preparation process for this sale, they reconfirmed the "Original" attribution. Per Mike Carboneau and James Gray, however, all original Judd-104 Gobrecht Dollars struck in Die Alignment IV should not display any die cracks on the reverse. Furthermore, since the coins produced in December 1839 were intended for circulation, most survivors of that 300-piece delivery are circulated to one degree or another. As for the restrikes of this variety, the researchers state that all display reverse die cracks and, since they were prepared for collectors sometime during the 1857-1878 era, are typically offered at unimpaired (i.e., unworn) levels of preservation.

The present coin does display hairline reverse die cracks (as struck) through the top of TH in UNITED and MERI in AMERICA. A third possible die crack through the base of LAR in DOLLAR is not, however, noticed. Liberty's head is opposite the F in OF when the coin is rotated around its vertical axis. As far as the eye appeal and surface preservation are concerned, this is a truly exquisite specimen. Uniformly brilliant in finish, both sides display warm champagne-gray central toning that yields to vivid cobalt-blue and gold (obverse only) patina around the peripheries. The strike is razor sharp throughout, and both sides are smooth enough to suggest that they were the recipient of great care since the day of issue. While we leave this coin's final original vs. restrike assessment to bidders, we will say that, regardless of the actual status, it is a beautiful and rare representative of an important Silver Dollar issue.

1839 Gobrecht Dollar

PR-55 NGC

Die Alignment IV

An Original Struck for Circulation in December 1839



2421 1839 Judd-164, O'Gorman, Pollock-116, Rarities-1, Name Omitted, Proof-55 (NGC). *Satin, Rooted Edge, Die Alignment: IV.* The reported mintage of the 1839 Gobrecht Dollars is 1,000 pieces, all of which were issued in December of that year, and all of which were intended for circulation. We note from Pollock's list two examples graded for circulation in 1839 were struck (as proofs) in Die Alignment IV, a fact that has caused some confusion among collectors. Interestingly, most of the 1839 Dollars (164 Rarities) were also struck in this alignment. We further note that the above-quoted mintage of 1,000 pieces for 1839 does not include the small number issued for circulation in December 1839. We do not know exactly how many circulation pieces remained in bank boxes.

Obverse and reverse sides of the coin can be distinguished from one another by the absence, or presence of reverse die cracks. Since the reverse die was never used for circulation coins, this is a key to the 1839 alignment compared to December 1839. Also, since this circulation issue was minted in the public, circulation mint boxes contained far fewer die cracks and mint passes, a somewhat problematical problem. The light wear on the present example is further evidence that it is one of only 18 known流通 coins recorded by collectors with specimens having survived in high grades.¹

This coin exhibits good, or greater grade, showing ample overall sharp definition and minimal high-point rub. The surfaces are a bit muted with scattered depressions that include a small downward facing hairline die-dent.

PLANCHA

See also Article written by Paul C. Giesecke, "American Patterns and Minting Accidents 1835-1852," p. 32.

SEATED DOLLARS



2422 1840 Breen-5425, AU-58 (NGC). This is the first year in which Silver Dollars were prepared for circulation in substantial numbers. The finely looking and attractive Gobrecht design, however, did not survive past 1839, at least not in its original form. Robert Ball (Augus) modified the Seated Liberty motif on the obverse by lowering the relief, chiseling away some of the rock, and adding more drapery. The flying eagle on the reverse gave way to a resolution of that first designed by John Reich in 1802 for the Capped Bust Half Dollar.

With the exception of an initial 1840 delivery of 12,500 pieces to affluent bullion dealers and bankers with the new coin, Silver Dollar deliveries of the 1840s reflect the amount of silver deposited into striking that denomination. The final mintage figure for the

1840 is 61,005 pieces, most survivors of which grade no finer than VF. This conditionally scarce, near-Mint representative is warmly toned in lavender-gray shades with some golden blue undertones along the direct angles. Uncommonly well struck for the type with no singularly mentionable abrasions.

PLANCHA



2423 1841 Breen-5426, MS-61 (NGC). While the 1841 (175,000 pieces produced)² is offered in circulated grades with more or less frequency, Mint State examples are downright rare. This coin is satiny in luster quality with moderately bright fields glowing beneath rich olive-gray toning. Well struck by the standards of this series with only a few scattered, well concealed abrasions.

NOVEMBER 9, 2010

7:00 PM (EST)

See also 1885 ANA Auction (Heritage Numismatic Auctions Inc.) Lot 1638

2424 1842 Breen-5428. AU-58 (NGC). The relative availability of the 1842 in today's market has made it a favorite among circulated type collectors. Nonetheless, those survivors that approach the Mint State threshold are scarce. Pleasingly sharp in strike with ample remnants of the original finish, both sides are toned in dove-gray patina with warmer golden-apricot undertones. There are no abrasions worthy of singular mention.

PCGS# 6928.

Purchased from Atlanta Rare Coins on January 25, 1990



2425 1843 Breen-5429. MS-61 (NGC). The 1843 is a true condition rarity. While circulated examples may be among the most plentiful Dollars from the 1840s in today's hobby, Mint State coins are seldom offered. An originally preserved representative, this BU coin is warmly toned in dominant lilac-gray shades. The strike is sharp for the type, and the surfaces are uncommonly free of sizeable abrasions for a Silver Dollar at the MS-61 level. Clearly, this is an important bidding opportunity for the specialist.

Repunching on the digits 1 and 4 in the date is noted.

PCGS# 6929.

Ex: Superior Galleries, January 2003, Lot 881



2426 1844 Breen-5431. MS-60 (NGC). This is a scarce issue with just 20,000 examples produced. In Mint State, the 1844 is rare with even MS-60 coins such as that offered here being very difficult to locate. Satin-to-softly frosted luster envelops both sides with a shimmering texture. The surfaces exhibit minimal patination in golden iridescence over boldly, if not sharply struck features. Scattered abrasions include a few moderate grazes in the fields, all of which are within the context of the assigned grade.

It seems likely that all Seated Dollars produced in 1844 were struck from a single die marriage. The obverse die is actually doubled with four instead of three lines in each vertical shield stripe. The reverse die is attributable by the presence of numerous file marks (as produced) in the field between the eagle's wings and body.

NGC Census: 3; 10 finer.

PCGS# 6930.

Ex: The Philip Van Cleave Sale (Kagin's Numismatic Auctions, January 30 - February 1, 1986), Lot 3421



2427 1845 Breen-5433. AU-55 (NGC). Apparently bullion deposits remained limited through 1845 because only 24,500 Silver Dollars were produced in that year. This issue is very popular among collectors, but it can prove quite challenging to locate an attractive Choice AU example. Evenly toned in olive-gray shades, both sides are boldly defined with minimal highpoint wear. The only singularly mentioned abrasion is an obverse reading mark in the left field. A pleasing representative of an issue that is a major rarity in Mint State.

PCGS# 6931.

Purchased from Everlast Coin Galleries on October 9, 1995

2428 1846 Breen-5435. AU-58 (NGC). Much of the original finish remains, the otherwise satiny texture brightening to modest reflectivity in the fields. Both sides in light patinated in warmth apricot and silver iridescence, and sharp striking detail is also a praise worthy feature. Moderately abraded with a few scattered reading marks. A find for the near Mint type collector.

PCGS# 6932.

Purchased from Mike Graham on November 18, 1995



2429 1846-O Breen-5437. AU-58 (PCGS). In 1846, branch mint Silver Dollar production became a reality when 90,000 pieces emerged from the presses in New Orleans. A numerically significant issue, the 1846-O seems to have seen considerable domestic circulation with survivors being relatively plentiful in grades below EF. At or near Mint State, however, this issue is a rarer find indeed to be reckoned. This is one of the most appealing examples that the cataloger has seen. Both sides bearing nearly full mint luster with an uncommonly sharp strike that includes emerging definition over Liberty's head and the adjacent star visible. Pleasantly found in apricot-gray iridescence with splashes of ochreous tones at the lower border. Swirls of near-brilliance are also seen in the right fields on both sides. Minimally abraded for a catalogued example of this issue and obviously well cared for after spending only a short time in circulation.

PCGS# 6933 to 6934.

PCGS# 6935.

Purchased from Eddie Rowdy.

2430 1847 Breen-5438, AU-58 (NGC). This date is often considered common, and in lower circulated grades is actually quite plentiful; but our experience suggests that higher grade coins such as this are elusive. The olive-gray patina is both original and even with remnants of original luster seen at the corners under a light. Overall well-struck with scattered abrasions, most of which are small and individually inconspicuous.

BUCKLE GOLD

Purchased from Delmarva Auctions and Johnson Demarest - 2018



2431 1848 Breen-5439, AU-58 (PCGS). History: Marshall Square & New Hampshire Collection, and later (possibly) Long Beach Coin Co., Inc. This is exceptionally well struck. We are not aware of any held this high to estimate its place in the collection. It is one of the finest examples known (all 1848-O pieces). The seated Liberty seated before the shield of the Union. Strong linear features, which like many striking on light-colored metals, tend to be sharp. There is great weight and solid detail, and the reverse shows much more detail than is typical of this date. Some slight abrasions, strong luster and the model of the date makes the coin appear prominent.

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2432 1849 Breen-5441, AU-55, Original OB (the issue first limited to just 62,000 examples, and now a good percentage have survived today). A slightly complex design with some evidence of some center rubs, quite common. Luster unbroken on the obverse, good, featuring some mint luster with solid pressure on several portions of the planchet and otherwise papered over. Attractively highlighted in the gold, and well struck with a pronounced knifelike rim detail. It would go a notch on the reverse.

*Monogrammed Gold
1849-O*

Excluded from American King - Long Beach



2433 1850 Breen-5443, Open 5, MS-62 (NGC). By 1850, the amount of silver bullion reaching the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia was so small that only 7,500 Seated Dollars were produced in that year. This soon begins a decade of challenging P-mint Silver Dollars, with example being scarce to rare in circulated as well as Mint State grades. Expectedly profiled to finish for an Uncirculated 1850 Dollar, the coin in this lot is toned in warm champagne-silver to bluish. All features are sharply struck, and there are no more than the expected number of light and moderate abrasions for the reported grade. An issue that always generates excitement at auction.

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Excluded from Eddie O'Bryan's



2434 1850-O Breen-5444, AU-55 (PCGS). The 1850-O is the *rarest* of the four Seated Dollar issues delivered in the Louisiana legend mint. In fact, survivors are more difficult than even a limited original mintage of 40,000 pieces might suggest. We believe that many 1850-O Dollars were melted by bullion dealers and speculators. The example offered here is among the more pleasing AU representatives that we have handled. Both sides are richly toned in blended lavender-blue and cobalt-blue shades. Uncommonly free of distracting abrasions for the grade with overall bold striking detail. Conditionally rare.

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Rare 1851 Seated Liberty Dollar

An Original Striking

PCGS MS-61



2435 1851 Breen-5445. MS-61 (PCGS). All 1851 Seated Dollars actually prepared in 1851 are business strikes with the date set high in the field and close to the base upon which Liberty is seated. Only 1,300 such coins were delivered, most of which probably did not enter circulation at the time of striking because they would have been melted soon thereafter. The high grade of most survivors (EF-Mint State) seems to confirm this theory. Bowers (1993) suggests that sharp-eyed bank tellers, Treasury employees, or the like snatched up all 1851 Dollars that came their way when the issue did enter circulation sometime after 1853. Still, not many examples have survived in lightly worn condition. As for the Mint State survivors, these may have been among a select group of coins retained at the Mint for sale or trade to collectors. Since no original proof 1851 Dollars were produced (at least none have surfaced to date), collectors desiring an example of this issue had to settle for a business strike until the restrikes (date centered in field) were coined sometime during or after the late 1850s.

Champagne tinged with crisply impressed features, this coin is sure to excite specialists in the Seated Dollar series. The reverse is uniformly frosted in finish, but the obverse displays a semi-prooflike sheen. There are some die polish lines (as produced) on the latter side that explain the semi-reflectivity in the field—this feature almost certainly resulting from the Mint's effort to efface clashmarks, one of which is still seen before Liberty's right (facing) arm. There are no sizeable distractions, just wispy abrasions that are well within the context of the BU grade level.

PCGS Population: 3; just eight are finer.

PCGS# 6939.

Purchased from Jim O'Donnell on November 17, 1987

Key Date 1852 Seated Dollar

One of Just 1,100 Business Strikes Produced



2436 1852 Breen-5447, AU-28 (PCGS). Along with the 1853, 1850-S, and 1853-C, the 1852 is among the keys to the 1840-1873 Seated Liberty dollar series. (We exclude the 1853-S from this list because it is currently unknown in any collection.) Like the 1851, the 1852 was produced in very limited numbers. A mere 1,100 business strikes emerged from the presses in the first year. (There will be even smaller numbers of proofs.) Reverse, in proof format were also made in later years.

The survivors make 1852 dollars difficult to find without a condition with most survivors grading no lower than EF. Apparently, those coins which were not melted down, according to the mid-19th century, the rarity of this date already being recognized in that time. Much of the original mint luster remains on both sides of this golden gray representative. The toning is evenly distributed over the field, bringing up features. Minimum wear with only small, well-scattered abrasions.

PCGS Certified

PSL Certified

Original Mint Luster

2437 1853 Breen-5449, AU-58 (NGC). Reverse indicates underproduction immediately in 1853 when 18,711 and 18,916 dollars were struck. Only 10,000 more pieces were produced in the second issue, but production was among the lowest recorded. Every Dollar from the 1853 is an original market issue, in hand, still planning, or in sample or proof in soft silver-gray and bluish-green sprout shades. Strikingly clear, too, on both sides, reduced fractions, the surfaces are problem-free but slightly overtoned after many decades.

PCGS Certified

PSL Certified



2438 1854 Breen-5450, AU-53 (NGC). Mintage of this issue was limited to 33,410 coins, all produced on June 29. Walter Breen noted that 10,000 of these coins were sent to California in November as "small change" in the gold regions. Presumably Breen had found some document that told of such a shipment. In the Eliasberg Collection catalog, Dave Bowers noted that most were sent to China where they were melted.

A rare Uncirculated survivor, both sides are richly toned in original lavender-gray shades. Ample remaining definition points to an uncommonly sharp strike for the type, and the number of our

wanted survivors is relatively few for the grade. One of the more pleasing AU-1854 Silver Dollars that we have handled in recent memory.

PCGS Certified



2439 1855 Breen-5452, AU-55 (NGC). An issue that was probably exported in significant quantity, the 1855 is rarer in today's market than even a limited original mintage of 26,000 pieces might imply. An important offering for the specialist, this richly toned, lavender-charcoal example is problem-free for the grade with essentially no outwardly bothersome abrasions. Boldly, if not sharply struck throughout.

PCGS Certified

Purchased from J.J. Leipart Inc.



2440 1856 Breen-5453. AU-55 (PCGS). Although produced in slightly greater numbers, the 1856 (63,500 pieces) is equally as elusive as the 1855. Again, we believe that many examples of this issue were exported and subsequently melted overseas. With pleasingly toned, mostly lavender-silver surfaces and no singularly mentionable abrasions, this coin should be of obvious importance to Seated Dollar date collectors.

PCGS# 6944.

Ex: The Worth Hill/Lanting Auction (Heritage Numismatic Auctions, Inc.), Lot 1337



2441 1857 Breen-5455. MS-63 (PCGS). Due to a contemporary bullion value of \$1.04, the Silver Dollar did not see widespread domestic circulation during the 1850s. As such, the P-mint deliveries of this decade are all scarce-to-rare in both circulated and Mint State grades. A definite rarity, the Choice 1857 example in this lot is one of seemingly few high grade survivors of this issue to display frosty, rather than prooflike surfaces. The strike is overall bold, particularly on the obverse, and both sides are beautifully toned in target-like gold, powder-blue, and champagne-apricot shades. Virtually free of outwardly bothersome abrasions save for a small obverse reading mark in the right field inside stars 12-13. Precious few 1857 Seated Dollars in today's market can compare with this coin in terms of either technical quality or aesthetic appeal.

PCGS Population: 9; 6 finer.

PCGS# 6945.

Purchased from Mid-American Rare Coins on August 7, 1986

Proof-Only 1858 Seated Dollar



2442 1858 Breen-5456. Proof-62 (PCGS). Among the most important issues in the Seated Dollar series, the 1858 is the only one for which just proofs were prepared. The exact number of 1858 Silver Dollars delivered has been a matter of debate with estimates ranging from as low as 75-80 specimens (probably too low) to as high as 300+ coins (probably a bit too high, but perhaps closer to the mark). Regardless, this issue never fails to capture the attention of bidders when an example appears at auction. The otherwise lavender-gray toning scheme of the present example assumes an olive-gray cast at the denticles. Expectantly crisp in delineation for a proof striking, both sides do not possess any outwardly distracting hairlines or contact marks.

PCGS# 7001

Ex: Auction '86 (Stacks, July 25, 1986), Lot 300

2443 1859 Breen-5457. AU-53 (NGC). This silver-gray representative is minimally worn with overall sharp definition to the devices. Traces of original luster are evident as the coin rotates under a light. Moderately abraded with a single mentionable scrape in the right obverse field. Unlike its similarly dated O-mint counterpart, the 1859 is a scarce coin in circulated grades that becomes quite rare near the Mint State threshold.

PCGS# 6946.

Ex: Cain Galleries, November 16, 1983, Lot 259

2444 1859-O Breen-5459. AU-58 (NGC). With remnants of mint luster beneath rich copper-gray toning, this well struck example would make a pleasing addition to a nearly Uncirculated type set.

PCGS# 6947.



2445 1859-S Breen-5462. AU-55 (NGC). This otherwise silver-gray example reveals faint blushes of champagne and powder-blue undertones at the most direct angles. A light also calls forth remnants of satiny mint luster, but essentially none of the abrasions are singularly distracting. The striking definition is well above average by the standards of this historically significant issue.

The 1859-S is the premier S-mint Silver Dollar in the history of the United States Mint. Survivors of the 20,000-piece delivery are infrequently offered in even the largest auctions, particularly in grades at or near the Mint State level. This issue is of further import due to its status as the only S-mint Dollar of the 1840-1865 No Motto type.

The first two digits in the date are repunched at their bases.

PCGS# 6948.

Purchased from Julian Leidman on December 12, 1986

2446 1860 Breen-5463. AU-55 (NGC). Rich chocolate-toning outlines the devices with a slightly more extensive dormatization on the reverse. The balance of the surfaces are slate-gray in tone, and the devices are sharply impressed with only minimal highpoint relief. Lightly-to-moderately abraded, yet problem-free within the context of the assigned grade. A coin for the circled date collector who appreciates high quality as well as undeniable originality.

PCGS 4000

Purchased from Harry Catlin via Bowers.

2447 1860-O Breen-5465. AU-58 (NGC). A fine, remnant-of-a-glorious frosty finish glows beneath dove-tail toning and warmer powder-blue and bluish undertones. That deeply acidic relatively abrasion-free example should have facile resale finding its way from one mint slab to the next.

PCGS 4000

The family October 2010 NCAC auction.



2448 1861 Breen-5467. AU-58 (NGC). Second Dollars of the Civil War come to all problems in our 1860-dollar Mint, and this example is extremely typical after handling under inspection. Obverse 100% 77-100 pieces observed in 1861. The predominantly lavender, rosy-pinkish-orange is mostly found in orange gold, blue and powder blue colors. Shining impression contrasted with no further toning alternative-free (approximately 16% of 1861 coins found "faded" or worn).

PCGS 4000

Previously listed 11/10/2006.

2449 1862 Breen-5468. AU-58. The 1862-S dollar date from a limited original mintage of 11,000 pieces. Many survivors are now poor, probably salvaged from circulation surviving in the long decades of the 1860s. This nice example is not without problems, but it does offer overall sharp, reasonably sharp definition for a coin modestly over 100 years old. It has glossy lavender rose gold coloring, the reverse appearing ultra-grayish and the obverse exhibiting orange orange gold and several ripples. There are no singularly defining attributes.

PCGS 4000

Purchased from Gary Palmer.



2450 1863 Breen-5469. AU-55 (NGC). The champagne-granite surfaces retain ample evidence of both a satiny finish and a more sharp strike. The obverse is a bit more extensively patinated than the reverse, but both sides are free of all but a few moderate size abrasions in the fields. The 1863 (2,200 pieces produced) is similar in overall toning to the 1862, particularly at the circulated levels of preservation.

PCGS 4000

Purchased from Harry Catlin via Bowers.



2451 1864 Breen-5470. AU-58 (NGC). This frosty-weathered example is mostly lavender with warm, conjunctive, lavender-gray toning. Loveliest well-blended, apricot-gold, lavender, and damaged-heated undertones are evident as the surface dips into a light. This sharply struck, not overly abraded example is a conditionally scarce survivor of this, one another challenging Civil War era Dollar issue.

PCGS 4000

Previously listed 8/20/2006.



2452 1865 Breen-5471. MS-60 (NGC). The 1865 (46,500 pieces produced) has a higher original mintage than the 1864, yet it is the scarcer of the two dates in today's market. In fact, the 1865 is one of the rarest Silver Dollars from the 1860s, particularly in Mint State. This richly toned example is overlaid by even dove-gray shades. There are hardly any outwardly noticeable abrasions, but somewhat subdued luster seems to preclude a higher grade. Sharply struck throughout and a find for the advanced specialist.

NGC comes in 12mm diameter, so this is a concession of 12mm to 13mm MS-64 PCGS. *Extremely small flaws*, and we find it difficult to believe that this specimen displays evidence of such flaws if this were a piece in an effort to secure an elusive Gem designation.

PCGS 4000

Purchased from Julian Lehman on June 27, 1990.

2453 1866 Breen-5476. Motto. AU-58 (NGC). This is the first year of issue for the new design type with the addition of the motto IN GOD WE TRUST on the reverse. As such, the small number of survivors today must be distributed among both date collectors and type collectors. This additional demand creates the appearance that examples are even rarer than they actually are, and these are not common in the first place. Today, we would not be surprised to learn that no more than 200 examples of this issue survive in all grades.

Partial mint luster peers through rich olive-gold toning with a satiny texture. All devices are at least bold in striking detail, if not sharp, and there are no individually mentionable circulation marks.

PCGS# 6959.

Ex: *The Frederick B. Taylor Collection (Bowers and Merena)*, Lot 3285

2454 1867 Breen-5478. Blundered Date. AU-58 (NGC). Although not widely recognized as such, the 1867, in our opinion, is the rarest Motto Seated Dollar of the 1860s. This is a date that we seldom handle at any level of business strike preservation, particularly in problem-free Choice AU. Satiny finish with little of the luster lost to circulation, both sides also retain ample evidence of an overall sharp strike. The otherwise silver-gray patina deepens in hue ever-so-slightly at the borders. The surfaces appear smooth enough that, were there no rub, this coin would probably secure at least an MS-62 designation. We cannot overstate the importance of this lot to Seated Dollar date collectors.

This is an interesting blundered date variety. Apparently, this die was first impressed with a date logotype for the 1867 Half Dollar, which was partially effaced before the proper logotype was entered. This die was used to strike proofs of this date, as well as an unknown, although seemingly limited number of business strikes.

PCGS# 6960.

Purchased from *Summit Rare Coins* on January 4, 1992

2455 1866 Breen-5479. AU-58 (PCGS). Evenly patinated in silver-lilac hues, this partially lustrous example is overall sharp in strike with very little wear in evidence. Minimally abraded for a near-Mint Dollar of this type with pleasing eye appeal. Our experience suggests that the business strike 1868 is easier to locate than the 1866 Motto and 1867, but scarcer than the 1869. Regardless, this issue is rare when viewed from a market availability standpoint with most date collectors having no choice but to settle for one of the extant proofs.

PCGS# 6961.

Purchased from *Norm Pullen* in 1989

2456 1869 Breen-5481. AU-58 (NGC). This richly toned example is 100% original, dominant lavender-gray toning assuming an iridescent olive cast around most of the devices. The overall satiny finish is readily evident at direct angles, as are very modest hints of brightness in the fields. This sharply struck example is a conditionally scarce representative of Seated Dollar coinage from the latter half of the 1860s.

PCGS# 6962.

Ex: *Harmer Rook Numismatists Ltd.*, Lot 666

2457 1870 Breen-5482. MS-61 (NGC). Golden tinged iridescence blankets fully lustrous, softly frosted surfaces. The otherwise sharp impression wanes only slightly over one or two isolated features, and both sides are uncommonly distraction-free for the BU grade level. An as produced grease streak is noted on the reverse at the final A in AMERICA. The 1870 (415,000 pieces produced) is the rarest P-mint Seated Dollar of this decade after the final-year 1873. It is, however, more obtainable than the Motto issues of the 1860s with a not insignificant number of examples emerging from Treasury Department holdings in the years from 1962 through 1964.

PCGS# 6963.

Ex: *The St. John's Abbey Collection (Harmer Rook Numismatist Ltd.)*, November 13, 1986, Lot 1000



2458 1870-CC Breen-5486. AU-58 (PCGS). The first coins struck in the Carson City Mint were Silver Dollars of the Seated Liberty design. The total mintage for the 1870-CC is just 11,758 pieces, enough examples of which were saved as the first of their kind to make this issue the most plentiful CC-mint Seated Dollar in today's hobby. Still, interested bidders typically face considerable competition when attractive About Uncirculated coins such as the present piece appear at auction. The otherwise charcoal-gray toning scheme assumes a more vivid, golden-blue appearance at direct angles. Just a few scattered abrasions are noted, and the devices are minimally rubbed with pleasingly sharp definition. The first of four desirable Carson City Seated Dollars in this collection, and a coin that is sure to excite type as well as date collectors.

Struck from dies marriage 2-4, as described in Bowers' 1993 book *Nitro's Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia*. The reverse of this variety was also used to die all 1872-CC Dollars.

PCGS# 6964.

Purchased from *Alpine Numismatics* on August 21, 2001

2459 1871 Breen-5487. AU-55 (NGC). This Choice AU type candidate is mostly lustrous with a warmly patinated, golden-gray sheen. The overall sharp strike is free of criticism, and the surfaces are relatively well preserved despite light highpoint rub and a few scattered abrasions.

PCGS# 6966.

Ex: *Stack's*, June 20-21, 1985, Lot 515

High Grade 1871-CC Seated Dollar A Rare Issue With Just 1,376 Pieces Produced



2460 1871-CC Breen-5489, AU-55 (NGC). Both sides very choice and just US\$1000+ more than graded. This is one of only seven known in the NGC Seated Dollar series and the second issue from the New Orleans Mint. All 1871 CC's were described as somewhat "uncertain" due to the difficulty in distinguishing them from the 1870-CC's. Since there was such interest in collecting these coins, it is not surprising that many were reclassified later, creating three distinct and second issues. Both survivors in this number of survivors range from just over 36 pieces upward to 1300+ coins.

Very fine patinated pillars, sides with slightly deeper charcoal shadows surrounding devices and drifting toward the core. The reverse is extremely well struck with impressively sharp definition throughout. No visible threads in the hair, no pinholes or pinpricks, no problems with the minting. A few minor quality issues like being near the minting sprue, some minor surface irregularities, but nothing of concern.

OC CO 1871-CC Seated Dollar AU-55 (NGC) (1871-CC Seated Dollar, Choice Uncirculated Condition, AU-55 and better, 1871-CC, Breen-5489, Ex. The L.D. French Jr. Family Collection of U.S. Silver Dollars, Stack's, January 18, 1988, Lot 61)

Lustrous and Rare 1872-CC Silver Dollar Impressive AU-58 NGC Quality



2462 1872-CC Breen-5493, AU-58 (NGC). The 1872-CC (3,150 pieces produced) is the second most common CC-mint Seated Dollar, but it is significantly more difficult (and costly) to acquire in low grades such as Good, VG, and Fine. At the near Mint level, the 1872-CC is a major rarity with just 13 AU-58 examples known to NGC and PCGS. Both sides of this particular representative are modestly semi-prooflike in finish with appreciable brightness in the fields. There is no toning save for delicate champagne-color iridescence at the denticles, and none of the devices exhibit bothersome lack of definition. Moderately abraded, as befits a lightly circulated survivor of this frontier era dollars.

A single off listing indicates the 1872-CC (the reverse) sold for \$15,000 in January 2003.

To: The L.D. French Jr. Family Collection of U.S. Silver Dollars
Stack's, January 18, 1988, Lot 61

2461 1872 Breen-5490, AU-55 (NGC). Both sides are originally preserved, but the reverse is more richly patinated in blue-gray and orange gold patina. The reverse is overlaid in soft champagne-color iridescence. Plenty of satiny luster and bold, sharp striking definition is seen. Like the 1871, the 1872 is a common Mint State type coin.

OC CO 1872 Seated Dollar AU-55 (NGC) (1872-CC Seated Dollar, Choice Uncirculated Condition, AU-55 and better, 1872-CC, Breen-5490, Ex. Higher-Roller Numismatics Ltd., Lot 635)

Important 1872-S Seated Dollar Mint State



2463 1872-S Breen-5492. MS-62 (NGC). The only collectible S-mint issue of the 1866-1873 Motto Seated Dollar series, the 1872-S is still an elusive issue with just 9,000 pieces produced. Bowers (1993) opines that these coins were retained in federal holding until the suspension of specie payments was lifted in 1876. The finest grade among survivors that most collectors can reasonably hope to obtain is Choice AU. In Mint State, the '72-S is one of the rarest of all Seated Dollars with only 17 so graded coins at the two major grading services.

Shimmering with satin luster, both sides are drenched in original toning. The otherwise golden-gray sheen lightens a bit to apricot-gray hues on the reverse. All features are crisply impressed, and the uncommonly smooth (for the grade) surfaces do not even reveal a worthwhile pedigree marker.

PCGS# 6970.

Ex: The March Sale (Stack's, March 16 - 18, 1983), Lot 984



2464 1873 Breen-5494. MS-63 (NGC). Due to meltings in the Mint, the 1873 (293,000 pieces produced) is a surprisingly difficult issue to locate in all grades. This satiny, golden-toned representative is uncommonly distraction-free with the look of a finer grade. Sharply struck up over all features, and worthy of a solid bid.

PCGS# 6971.

Purchased from Delaware Valley Rare Coins on July 7, 2000

Final-Year 1873-CC Seated Dollar A Noteworthy Rarity in All Grades



2465 1873-CC Breen-5495. Seated. AU-50 (PCGS). An issue that is the province of only the most advanced Seated Dollar and Carson City Mint specialists, the '73-CC Dollar was produced to the extent of just 2,300 pieces. Many examples (Bowers suggests 1,300) never reached the avenues of commerce and were, instead, melted to provide bullion for the 1873-CC Trade Dollar delivery. A rare and infrequently offered AU survivor, both sides are toned in rich steel-gray patina that lightens a bit in the more protected areas around the devices. Remnants of a satiny finish are seen at direct angles, but neither side reveals any outwardly detracting abrasions. Well struck with bold, if not sharp definition in virtually all areas. An important offering, and perhaps one of just 40-60 examples of this final-year issue believed extant in all grades.

The 1873-CC was struck from a single, unique orrifice, about which is what which Bowers' designates as D for the 1873-CC dollar.

PCGS Population: 8-11 finer; all but two of which grade AU-50 through AU-58.

PCGS# 6972.

Ex: 10th Anniversary Sale (Almer Kreisberg, Hazi, M.J. Schulman, April 6 - 8, 1987), Lot 1259. U.S. Gold, Silver & Copper Coin Auction (Stack's, March 17 - 18, 1987), Lot 1211

END OF JIM GRAY'S
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Rarities Sale

Consignment Deadline: June 24, 2004

October 28 – 29, 2004

◆ *Official Auctioneer* ◆
Las Vegas, Nevada
Las Vegas Invitational Coin Show
Mandalay Bay
Rarities Sale

Consignment Deadline: September 9, 2004

December 1 – 4, 2004

◆ *Official Auctioneer* ◆
Baltimore, Maryland
Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention
Consignment Deadline: October 11, 2004

January 9, 2005

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Consignment Deadline: November 26, 2004

March 9 – 11, 2005

◆ *Official Auctioneer* ◆
Baltimore, Maryland

Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention
Consignment Deadline: January 24, 2005

April 7 – 9, 2005

◆ *Official Auctioneer* ◆
Kansas City, Missouri
ANA Money Show

Consignment Deadline: February 21, 2005

July 6 – 8, 2005

◆ *Official Auctioneer* ◆
Baltimore, Maryland

Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention
Consignment Deadline: May 27, 2005

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18022 Cowan Suite 200D • Irvine, CA 92614
Toll-free: 800-458-4646 • 949-253-0916 • Fax: 949-253-4091
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